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319 D-I teams

The
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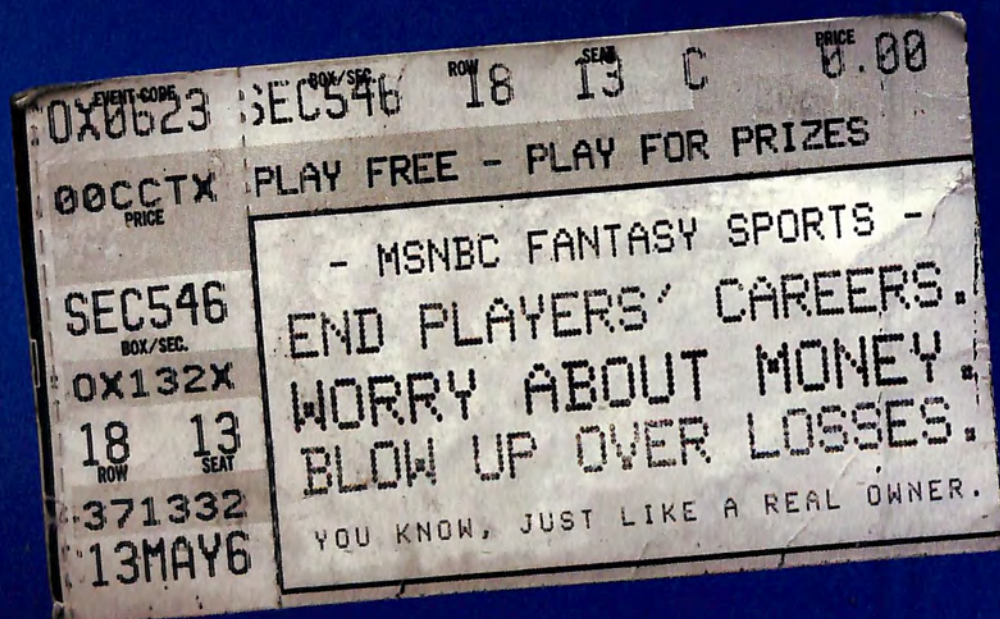


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LETTER FROM THE SENIOR EDITOR/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The index is back!

If we learned anything last season, it's simply this: Trying to find any of the 318 Division I teams is much easier when there's an alphabetical listing of who's where. So, among the many tinkering we did with this year's yearbook, we brought back the index. In fact, we even moved it to the front of the magazine—page 3 to be exact.

Beyond the index, many changes from last year's preview are subtle, but we think you will find them useful. We've expanded the opening section of each of the 10 major conferences to make room for some key statistics. In addition to last year's standings and this year's returning leaders, we've added a breakdown of every team's offensive and defensive numbers.



DeCourcy

And, of course, we continue to improve our team-by-team information among the major conferences. In addition to a hardcore X's and O's analysis of the strategy for each of those teams, you will find each school's projected starters highlighted. We also have added team web addresses.

But perhaps the most subtle—but by far the most important—change is the one you'll find at the end of one of our writer's taglines. If you look closely at the end of Mike DeCourcy's Scouting the Nation piece (it begins on page 4), you'll notice that Mike now is a full-time writer for THE SPORTING NEWS.

Mike began covering college basketball in 1985, doing a weekly notebook for the *Pittsburgh Press*, and then took over the Duquesne beat in 1987. He covered Duquesne for two seasons and then Pitt for three seasons until the paper folded in 1992. From there, he went to the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* and covered the University of Memphis, then moved on to the *Cincinnati Enquirer* in 1996.

He served as president of the United States Basketball Writers for a year, and he wrote the book *Inside Basketball: From The Playgrounds To The NBA*.

In the midst of all that, Mike became our college basketball columnist in 1995. Five years later, we had an opportunity to latch on to him full time, and we grabbed it.

As in years past, you'll find Mike's stamp all over this yearbook—from Scouting the Nation and top 25 capsules to the player and conference rankings. But where you'll particularly notice Mike's increased presence will be at our website, sportingnews.com/cbasketball, where we also have improved our team pages, added more statistics and increased our recruiting coverage.

We couldn't be more excited about the upcoming season. I guarantee you it will be our best. If it's not, feel free to let us know.

You can write Anna M. Jones at ajones@sportingnews.com or at 10176 Corporate Square Dr., Suite 200, St. Louis, 63132.

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Fantasy Baseball	January 11	College Football	June 20	Pro Basketball	September 12
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SCOUTING THE NATION

A Devil's sacrifice, players on the rise, the rebounding ACC, pivotal point guards and transfers you should know about

BY MIKE DeCOURCY

There was no summer internship for Shane Battier this year, no half-cushy job where he'd put on a suit and learn a little about the working world and, by the end of August, have some corporation wishing he'd come to work immediately.

This summer was dedicated to his chosen field. He played basketball.

This may appear to be a waste of his exceptional intellect and unsurpassed communication skills, but anything less would have risked mispending his athletic potential. And, as we all know, basketball offers its choicest candidates the sort of starting salary that would entice any Duke grad.

"Basketball was my main job," Battier says. He traveled home to Detroit for some summer ball, headed to the Palestra in Philadelphia for workouts with pro and college players and spent time in North Carolina as he worked to make individual improvements in his game for the sake of his future and Duke's pursuit of a national championship. This is the Blue Devils' time, and perhaps even more so, it is Battier's.

A 6-8 senior power forward, Battier is the nation's best player. That doesn't mean he won't have to scratch to earn his share of the Naismith, Robertson and Wooden trophies. Notre Dame's operation is likely to generate better numbers for star forward Troy Murphy, and the Irish's likely surge toward the top of the Big East will grab attention like a bug-eating contest on "Survivor."

There is no player, however, who delivers the same combination of leadership, production, variety and consistency as Battier—and no player whose contributions to college basketball merit a richer reward.

Battier has been astonishingly selfless during the first three years of his career, a period defined by the desperate rush of so many contemporaries to secure obscure but

lucrative NBA jobs. "I came to Duke willing to do whatever it took to help win ballgames," Battier says. And so he has.

He sat willingly through much of his freshman year, averaging 25 minutes even though he ranked among the top five players in his high school class. He accepted the responsibility of frequently playing out of position, at center, as a junior last season. He devoted himself to defense while many Duke teammates coasted on the Blue Devils' reputation as a show-stopping program. In 107 career games, he attempted double-figure shots only 23 times. Guard Courtney Alexander did it in every game of his two-year career at Fresno State.

The work Battier did this summer was mostly on ballhandling, which he'll need to make the transition to the NBA wing but also will help him advance the ball past opposing power forwards this year.

"I always knew in the back of my mind what I needed to do to become a better player," Battier says. "I put it in the back of my mind for a time when I knew I'd need it. I think this year is a great time to really show that as a part of my game."

It may seem a bit routine to nominate the Blue Devils as this year's No. 1 team. Battier still has not played for a team that failed to earn a top regional seed, and he has played on the losing side only 11 times in his career. But Duke hasn't won a national championship since 1992 and has made—please excuse the modifier—"only" two Final Fours in the interim. It's reasonable to suggest the Devils are due.

"People don't understand how difficult it really is to win a national championship," Battier says. "What I looked at with Michigan State was the senior leadership of Morris Peterson and Mateen Cleaves. Seniors who actually contribute are so rare these days. It was great to see those guys receive gratification for passing up a lot of money. I look to follow in that path."



GOAL-ORIENTED: No player combines leadership, production and consistency like Battier, who has been selfless in his first three seasons. After working on ballhandling, he is ready to show off more of his game.

SCOUTING THE NATION



Richardson

Fresh from the warming tray

Not every McDonald's All-American has an instant impact upon his chosen college team, but perhaps the rarest species is the one who sits willingly through a season's worth of development.

Sixteen of the 21 alumni of the 1999 McDonald's All-American Game became full-timers as college freshmen last season, playing about 27 minutes per game and averaging about 12 points. But there were others who had to wait for their share of playing time and shots:

Jason Richardson, SF, Michigan State. Richardson was caught behind veterans Charlie Bell and Morris Peterson, but his patience was rewarded with a championship ring that his nine points in a 16-minute title-game stint helped deliver. Richardson's extraordinary athleticism and energy made him a crucial member of the U.S. 20-and-under team this summer, and he shot a promising .474 from 3-point range. Expect him to be the Spartans' No. 2 scorer (behind Zach Randolph) as a sophomore.

Marvin Stone, C, Kentucky. With Jamaal Magloire around, there never was much use last season for Stone's ability to control the post. Stone managed nine points and seven rebounds in a win over Alabama and an impressive 13 rebounds in beating Maryland, but his playing time never was consistent. Now he'll get as many minutes as he can handle. Stone always has had a knack for holding his position in the post and owns terrific hands. The offense will flow better, as well. Stone had nearly as many assists (13) as Magloire (17) in less than half as many minutes.

Casey Sanders, C, Duke. Sanders lacked the strength as a freshman to contribute in a top 10 program. At 6-11, he weighed only 205, and he was pushed around most any time he met a serious challenge. But he showed his skill against those who couldn't muscle him; he scored eight points against Army and 12 against North Carolina A&T. He also blocked 17 shots in 144 minutes—that projects to 115 as a full-time player over a 32-game season. Word is he has improved his strength enough to compete with Carlos Boozer for minutes.



Stone

SHOOTING to be STARS

After playing mostly in support of others, these guys appear ready to take leading roles:

Damien Wilkins, SF, N.C. State. While more experienced teammates such as Damon Thornton were undermining the Pack's solid season, Wilkins quietly sharpened his skill for attacking the basket. In the final 13 games, he got to the free-throw line an average of five times a game and averaged 14.2 points. His combination of dexterity and power will emerge as this team's most significant weapon.

Brett Nelson, PG, Florida. The best player in last year's NCAA Tournament who didn't wear Michigan State green, Nelson matured in more of a hurry than anyone had a right to expect. He shot 14-of-27 (52 percent) from 3-point range and generated impressive numbers in rebounds, steals and assists. Although he committed three turnovers in the final, they came in a desperate attempt to create action. In tough tourney wins over Duke, Oklahoma State and North Carolina, he was guilty of only four turnovers—total.

Kelly Wise, C, Memphis. New Tigers coach John Calipari will get a lot of credit when Wise becomes a star this year, because Calipari is the guy who brought you Marcus Camby. No doubt Coach Cal has a thing or two to teach about aggression, but Wise has been on his way for a while. In last year's final dozen games, he averaged 15.7 points and 2.8 blocks.

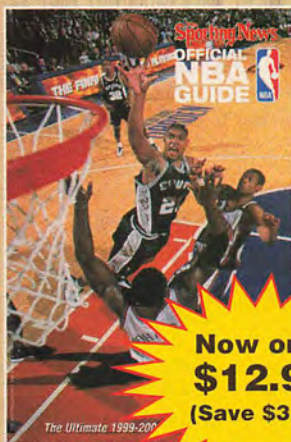
Nolan Johnson, SG, Oklahoma. Johnson took some time to discover his place in the Sooners' operation, but he reached double-figure scoring in 13 of the final 15 games and shot 57 percent for that stretch. His ability to score along the baseline becomes more important with Eduardo Najera gone.



Nelson

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SCOUTING THE NATION

McDonald



Fault lines

Some players manage to keep their good names in spite of obvious detriments. These guys all have major issues to address if they're going to guide their teams to more successful seasons in 2000-01.

Bobby Simmons, F, DePaul. Simmons is one of those guys who would hit .320 in baseball by belting two-out singles with his team down five runs. When the competition heats up, Simmons disappears. In games against NCAA Tournament teams last season, Simmons averaged 33.8 percent shooting from the field, 10.9 points, 7.3 rebounds and 3.4 turnovers. Against the lesser teams, he shot 54.7 percent and averaged 14.8 points. That's not a guy who seems ready to assume the responsibilities left behind by Quentin Richardson.

Michael McDonald, PG, Stanford. He's not a big guy, only 6-1, 170 pounds. Perhaps bearing the responsibility of running the Cardinal attack for a full season wore him down. From February 1 to season's end, McDonald averaged 4.2 points, 4.9 assists and attempted only four free throws. It's not often the word "inert" comes up in a basketball conversation, but at least the fine folks at Stanford know what it means. McDonald must become more aggressive on offense for the Cardinal to escape a two-year run of second-round tournament exits.

Robert O'Kelley, SG, Wake Forest. O'Kelley and coach Dave Odom appear to have gotten past the fixation of proving O'Kelley can play the point. With a career assist-to-turnover ratio of 1-to-1.1, he has left no doubt he can't. Now comes the challenge of rebuilding his confidence as a shooter. As his struggle to develop as a playmaker intensified, O'Kelley lost the touch that made him a high-major player in the first place. After February 1, he shot 32.9 percent from the field, 28.4 percent from 3-point range and averaged 10.8 points—this from a guy who previously was a 37.7 percent shooter from long distance with 200 career 3s.

Vincent Yarbrough, SF, Tennessee. His resistance to challenge became most obvious when Yarbrough produced 12.7 points, 4.3 rebounds and 42.9 percent shooting in the Vols' three NCAA Tournament games—all significant dropoffs from his season averages. His declining level of play in the NCAAs dropped him to 2.7 free-throw attempts per game. His enormous talent may be wasted if Yarbrough doesn't realize playing basketball sometimes is work.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

BACK ON TOP

If you haven't heard an Atlantic Coast Conference coach complain during the past two seasons about the treatment of his league by the NCAA selection committee, perhaps your attention has been diverted toward less consequential matters, like the presidential election.

From 1980 to 1998, the ACC never earned fewer than four berths in the NCAA Tournament field. In 1999 and 2000, the ACC topped out at three bids both years.

For this, the coaches blamed the committee, the Ratings Percentage Index formula and, yes, even the media.

So it obviously wasn't introspection that restored the ACC to the top of the conference pile as the 2000-01 season commences. More likely, it was evolution. Of the 30 players who started for the league's top six teams (Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, N.C. State, Virginia and Wake Forest) last season, 26 return for another season. Of the top 36 scorers among those same teams, 31 are back. Conference strength is a cyclical matter, and the ACC hit a difficult stretch that appears to be over.

"I feel very excited to come to Georgia Tech," says new coach Paul Hewitt, whose team joins Clemson and Florida State in the

race to catch up with the others. "But then I look at the schedule and look at how many people the other teams have back ... it's going to be a challenging year."

The ACC will rank as the best conference this year because it has the best teams and best players. There are four teams in TSN's Top 25, including three of the first 11 and No. 1 Duke. The league has one of the nation's top two players at all five positions.

What hurt the league the most during the past two seasons was the inability of the league's middle class to accomplish anything of note. The teams that ranked between fourth and sixth posted an average record of 17-13 and composite RPI ranking of 65. They were 13-43 against top 50 teams, a combined 7-34 against the ACC's elite three of Duke, Maryland and North Carolina and 23-37 in their final 10 games of those seasons.

Hewitt rightly points out Virginia had a case for inclusion in the field last season with a 19-11 mark and 3-3 record against the ACC's top three, but the Cavs' didn't impress the committee as a tournament team in losing three games to teams ranked outside the top 100. No one was robbed here.

"I think that's past," says Hewitt, who attended his first ACC coaches meeting in the spring and heard plenty of talk about turning around the league's performance. "Most of the meeting was focused on making sure we all do a good job and making it difficult to keep teams out."

That should not be a problem this time.



Social climbing

The majority of Division I transfers flow in the same direction: down. Players who discover they're underutilized or overmatched competing in high-major programs often discover success at the mid-major level or below. These guys are attempting the rare challenge of taking it in the opposite direction:

Maurice Evans, 6-5, SG, from Wichita State to Texas. It was a clear sign the Shockers were disintegrating when Evans made it known to big-time schools he would be leaving Wichita State. He wound up at Texas, bringing along a shooting touch good for 38 percent 3-point shooting in his first two college seasons and enough ballhandling skill to earn 178 free-throw attempts as a sophomore. He is considered one of the top pro wing prospects and should immediately start for the Longhorns.

Alpha Bangura, 6-6, SF, Monmouth to St. John's. He averaged 17.9 points and 5.5 rebounds as a freshman, but his team was a most-depressing 5-21. That was enough to convince him to head geographically east and competitively north. Bangura was not a proficient 3-point shooter his freshman season, but he had time to work on this during his year-in-waiting at St. John's.

Erik Brown, 6-5, SG, Morehead State to Louisville. This is not a done deal, because Brown has to complete some classwork in the fall to be eligible to compete for the Cardinals in December. The Cards could use him, because their perimeter game is thin, and Brown averaged 19.3 points and 5.4 rebounds and made 39 3-point shots for the Eagles his freshman year.

Victor Williams, 5-10, PG, Illinois State to Oklahoma State. In his first season with the Redbirds, Williams averaged 7.9 points and shot 42 percent on 3-pointers but developed a reputation as a handful for his coaches. Hey, Doug Gottlieb had the same rep, and he built a fine career with the Cowboys.

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Points of emphasis

Some of the college game's most powerful teams may go only as far as their point guards can drive them.

North Carolina: Adam Boone, Ronald Curry, Brian Morrison. One comforting element of the Tar Heels' search for a point guard is that new coach Matt Doherty won 22 with Jimmy Dillon running the Notre Dame attack. Dillon had 173 assists in the three years before Doherty arrived, but 214 as a senior. Boone and Morrison may be inexperienced and Curry may be worn down from football, but if there's a playmaker among them, Doherty will find him.

Kentucky: Saul Smith. Smith is an easy target for criticism because he's not a gifted player, but he's a solid, Jimmy Black-style point who needs to run with playmaking teammates. Marvin Stone should be more consistent in the middle on offense, and Tayshaun Prince will be fine if he limits his 3-point attempts. The key here is Keith Bogans, whose rise toward stardom could ease the pressure on Smith.

Michigan State: Marcus Taylor. All Taylor must do is replace one of the greatest point guards in the college game's history, Mateen Cleaves. If any player can meet that challenge, this is the guy. With his size (6-3, 190), quickness and shooting ability, he fits comfortably into a Spartans lineup geared more toward athleticism than muscle.

Smith



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Hidden gems

OK, so it's fairly well established college players aren't permitted to have agents. So how about if these guys get their own personal publicists? How else will they get the recognition they're due?

Juan Dixon, SG, Maryland. Even though he made All-ACC and was on the Wooden Award preseason top 25 list, Dixon's sophomore season still seems underappreciated. From January 1 to season's end, he was the nation's best shooting guard, beating the 30-point mark three times and exceeding five assists six times. He still has a bit of wildness in his game, but it's always the result of a desire to make things happen.

Brandon Granville, PG, Southern California. If not for the injury-induced collapse of the Trojans last season, Granville's ability might finally have been unveiled. He reached double figures in assists 13 times last season, without completely abandoning his shot. He still needs to be more selec-



Dixon

tive about when to shoot long range, but he's a major reason the Trojans expect to reach the NCAAs.

Casey Calvary, PF, Gonzaga. There's no sense arguing with an approach that lifted a mid-major program to a 5-2 NCAA Tournament record over two seasons. But with the Zags' veteran guards gone, Calvary should shoot more than the eight shots he averaged as a junior. He is an extraordinary athlete and excellent shooter and is worthy of being an offensive focus.

Altron Jackson, SF, South Florida. If you're coming off the bench for a Final Four team, people recognize your name. If you're a sixth man for an NIT team, it's a little different. Although he consistently has been the better player, Jackson isn't as well-known as teammate B.B. Waldon. Jackson is a creative scorer with an unusual, hard-to-block jumper. He may have an NBA future.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Kapono

Return to sender

Decision-making ranked as the one obvious problem with Georgia guard D.A. Layne's performance in his first couple years with the Bulldogs, but he clearly worked on this during the offseason. He made the wise decision to pull his name from the NBA draft's early entry list and return for his junior season.

Layne, who averaged 18.3 points in his second season as a Dawg, was one of six NCAA players who starred in the 1999-2000 season to withdraw their early entry applications before the deadline. The college game also will welcome back UCLA small forward Jason Kapono, SMU guard Jeryl Sasser, Cincinnati point guard Kenny Satterfield, UT-Pan American guard Brian Merriweather and Providence center Karim Shabazz.

"The NBA puts out a sheet that says if you're interested in the draft, fill this out and we have a committee that will evaluate you. His came back that unequivocally he would not be drafted," says Georgia coach Jim Harrick. "I think that was a message he learned real fast. I think it was good he listened to the NBA general managers. Generally, guys don't listen to them."

Several NBA executives told Satterfield it would be best for him to return to Cincinnati and work on his jump shot. They suggested to Kapono he probably was a late first-rounder, but he had lottery potential if he could work his body into the kind of shape that Florida's Mike Miller was in during his sophomore year.

If it seems these players might have their minds on the NBA rather than advancing their college careers, historical evidence suggests they'll do just as well or better in their comeback season. Over the past three years, five players who declared for the draft and then returned to their college teams increased their scoring averages the following season. Among last year's returnees, Weber State's Harold Arceneaux went from 22.3 points to 23. New Mexico's Lamont Long went from 16.8 to 18.7. Kentucky center Jamaal Magloire nearly doubled his average, from 6.9 to 13.2.

The one player who declined was Texas Christian center Lee Nailon, and it was not drastic: from 24.9 points per game as a junior in 1997-98 to 22.8 his senior year.

Whatever numbers Layne puts up for Georgia, Harrick expects he'll make significant progress when it comes to shot selection. The coach says Layne was a "free-wheeler" who figured any shot he could get airborne was worthwhile. With the lack of able players on the Bulldogs roster, "I kind of let him go," Harrick says.

Now that Harrick has more faith in his bench, he'll use it to instruct Layne on the proper time to fire that quick-trigger jumper of his. "I'll sit him down, which I didn't have the privilege of doing last year," Harrick says. "The bench is your greatest ally."

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TSN'S TOP 25

Duke or Arizona? Arizona or Duke?

Our crack staff was split down the middle, torn between naming the crew in Tucson (the one that owns the nation's best frontcourt and an absolutely stellar backcourt) or the Durham set (also known as a regular McDonaldland Playland) as the last one to be standing April 2 in the Metrodome. After weighing all the factors, we settled on Duke. The Blue Devils haven't won the Big Dance since 1992, when Grant Hill, Christian Laettner and Bobby Hurley helped wallop a young Michigan team in, of all places, Minneapolis.

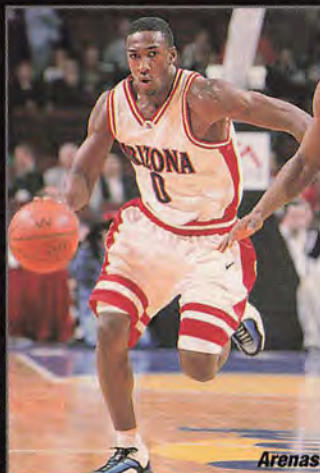
Here's what you need to know about the Devils, Wildcats and the rest of the best, as provided by TSN college basketball expert Mike DeCourcy.

1. DUKE

On average, the projected Blue Devils starters each have played 60 games in college. Three are entering their sophomore seasons. The principle reserve is a freshman, PG Chris Duhon. The way the game is today, this is what passes for a veteran outfit. With PG Jason Williams, SF Mike Dunleavy and C Carlos Boozer each owning a year's experience, their collective talent cannot be dismissed. This is a team with seven McDonald's All-Americans, the best of whom—PF Shane Battier—also is a college All-American. Surprisingly, Duke's one apparent weakness is defense, the area for which coach Mike Krzyzewski is best known. Unless 6-11 Casey Sanders contributes after an idle rookie year, the Devils are short on shot blocking. Ball pressure is an issue as well. To win their first NCAA title in nine years, the Devils need to grow up and get mean.

2. ARIZONA

Loren Woods is back, but is his back back? Although the Wildcats are rich in talent, no player is as important to their success as the 7-1 center. The NCAA selection committee learned in the spring how perilous it can be to gamble on the likelihood he'll be healthy. There isn't a lot behind Woods, but beside him are super players at every position: PF Michael Wright, SF Richard Jefferson, SG Gilbert Arenas and PG Jason Gardner. Wright is an overwhelming low-post scorer, and Jefferson may be the best small forward in the nation. In 34 games as freshmen, both Arenas and Gardner scored in double figures at least 25 times. The Wildcats wore down individually last season because of the lack of depth, but mostly they fatigued as a group when their central force was not available to complete the season. If Woods is all the way back, the Wildcats will be back in the Final Four.



3. MICHIGAN STATE

SF Jason Richardson, SG Mike Chappell and PF Adam Ballinger were merely hitching a ride on a very pleasant cruise through the Big Ten during most of last season. But if you think they didn't earn the rings they'll be presented with this winter, you need to watch that tape of the 2000 championship game one more time. Now these guys are at the heart of the Spartans' title defense, along with more established veterans SG Charlie Bell, PF Andre Hutson and PF Aloysius Anagonye and celebrated newcomers PG Marcus Taylor and C Zach Randolph. Thanks to Randolph, the team will improve its post offense. Thanks to Taylor, it will be a better shooting team. With Richardson unleashed, these Spartans will have a greater variety of scoring options. If Tom Izzo had \$15 million reasons to leave MSU and coach in the NBA, he's got eight or 10 better reasons to stick around a little longer.

4. STANFORD

Many times a genuine NCAA Tournament disaster one year can motivate the surviving players toward a March rampage the next. It generally helps if there is an onslaught of media criticism to unite the players. We'll be happy to help. In second-round eliminations the past two years, Stanford allowed opposing perimeter players to average 42 points and 12 assists. Point guard Michael McDonald shot 4-of-16 in the last four games of last season. The Cardinal must remember defense is played outside as well as inside, and offense is played inside as well as outside. Adding Justin Davis to the frontcourt attack should balance the emphasis on Casey Jacobsen's scoring, and the Collins twins should be hungry to take one last shot together. Stanford is not even three years removed from the Final Four but stands one year shy of a reputation as an NCAA underachiever. That's a tricky problem, even for a Stanford man.

5. MARYLAND

Finishing this high might turn out to be easier for the Terps than mounting the Final Four

EMPHASIS ON

'DEVILS': For Duke to stand alone as champions, players like guard Jason Williams have to step up and get mean.

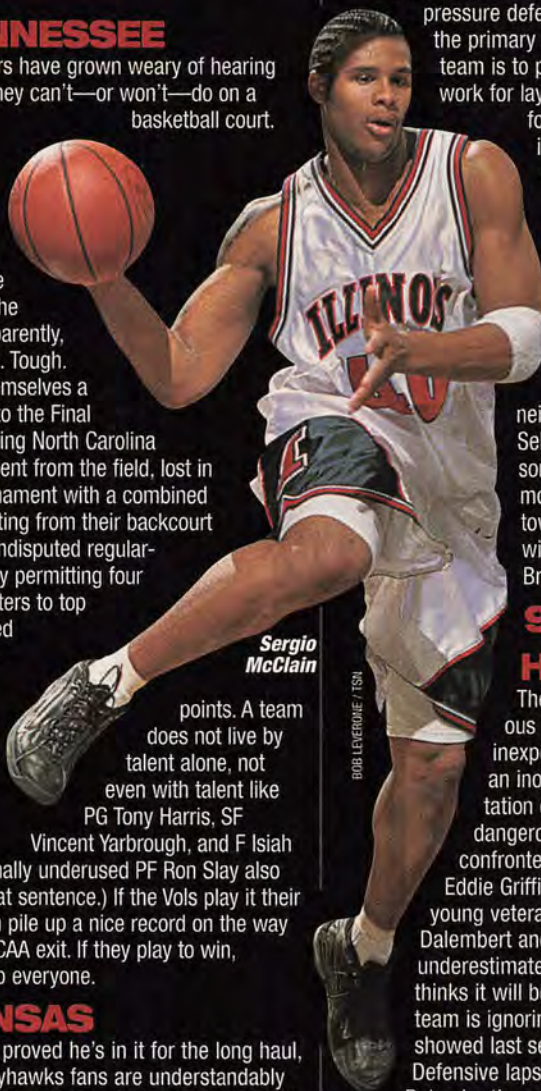


assault such a lofty status implies. Although Maryland has approached excellence in Gary Williams' tenure, it never has completed the journey. F Terence Morris personifies this program, but the good news is he seems to understand. He's not hiding from criticism of his junior season, and he's not running from it. Instead of bouncing to the NBA, Morris returned to confront his potential one last time. It's fairly predictable what the rest of the Terps will deliver, despite the recurring mystery of how SG Juan Dixon produces so much. Another year of maturity might enhance SF Danny Miller's and PG Steve Blake's performance. Having 6-10 freshman Chris Wilcox should ease the inside pressure on F/C Lonny Baxter. This is a good team, guaranteed. Greatness is there for the taking.

6. TENNESSEE

The Volunteers have grown weary of hearing about what they can't—or won't—do on a basketball court.

They don't like to hear about shot selection, rebounding and defensive basics from the media or, apparently, their coaches. Tough. They cost themselves a possible trip to the Final Four by allowing North Carolina to hit 50 percent from the field, lost in the SEC tournament with a combined 2-of-19 shooting from their backcourt and lost an undisputed regular-season title by permitting four Alabama starters to top their combined scoring averages by 21



Sergio McClain

points. A team does not live by talent alone, not even with talent like PG Tony Harris, SF

Vincent Yarbrough, and F Isaiah Victor. (Criminally underused PF Ron Slay also belongs in that sentence.) If the Vols play it their way, they can pile up a nice record on the way to an early NCAA exit. If they play to win, they'll shut up everyone.

7. KANSAS

Roy Williams proved he's in it for the long haul, and while Jayhawks fans are understandably pleased, they wouldn't mind if that also meant the long haul of the NCAAs. KU has fewer wins in the past three tournaments than Gonzaga and Tulsa. The Jayhawks cannot afford to turn over the ball as frequently and need to find a consistent direction for an offense that included 10 players with 100 or more points last season but averaged only 58 points in its final five defeats. Williams sparked late-season life

in his team by turning it over to freshmen PG Kirk Hinrich, PF Drew Gooden and C Nick Collison. This is not the quickest bunch, and the need for a more athletic shooting guard was obvious in Williams' thirst to land DeShawn Stevenson. But the skill level at KU is the best it has been since Paul Pierce and Raef LaFrentz ended their reign together, and Williams ranks among coaching's royalty.

8. ILLINOIS

What matters is not the talent of the players who leave, but the promise of the ones replacing them. It works that way with coaches, too. Lon Kruger is gone after winning 22 games and getting a No. 5 NCAA seed, but in comes Bill Self after winning 32 at Tulsa, where the pockets aren't as deep and the brand name isn't as established. Self specialized in pressure defense, which is fine, but the primary challenge with his new team is to persuade the players to work for layups instead of settling for jump shots. Nearly one

in three shots last season was a 3-pointer, though the Illini converted those attempts at roughly the same proportion. The backcourt of Frank Williams and Cory Bradford tried 23 shots a game, although neither hit even 40 percent. Self has the force of personality to guide them in a more positive direction—toward sharing the ball with Marcus Griffin and Brian Cook.

9. SETON HALL

The second-most dangerous thing to do in cases of inexperienced teams is to pile on an inordinate degree of expectation on a group. The most dangerous thing to do when confronted by rookies such as PF Eddie Griffin, PG Andre Barrett and young veterans such as C Samuel Dalembert and SG Darius Lane is to underestimate them. Anyone who thinks it will be easy for such a young team is ignoring history, but Florida showed last season what is possible. Defensive lapses are likely, but Dalembert's peerless shot blocking relieves some pressure. Griffin's arrival immediately provides variety to an offense previously held hostage by its lack of inside targets. If the 3s weren't falling before, the Pirates were. Most of the depth remains on the perimeter, so any calamity (injury, foul trouble) affecting Griffin or Dalembert will be a substantial handicap. The team's youth need not be.



Haywood

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

10. KENTUCKY

It's been a bear of an offseason in Lexington. A 20-win season and SEC championship can have that effect on a Wildcats fan, who is more likely to notice what didn't happen (the NCAA Sweet 16, an SEC tournament title, a 10th straight season with single-digit defeats). It has been so grim that UK people fail to notice what these Wildcats might accomplish. PG Saul Smith is perfectly positioned as a senior leader with a great head for the game. He'll have more offensive options with SG Keith Bogans and G/SF Tayshaun Prince progressing and with F/C Marvin Stone owning more pure offensive ability than the player he replaces, Jamaal Magloire. There still are too few weapons at the perimeter positions, and this never will be a great 3-point team. If the Wildcats can accept that and attack the goal, they can last awhile in the NCAAs.

11. NORTH CAROLINA

Should a team that returns nearly intact from a Final Four season be ranked outside the top 10? Should the same team that squeezed into the tournament with an 18-13 record be held in such esteem? Which group was the real Tar Heels, anyway? That's why they're here. Not too high. Not too low. It's hard to miss by much, unless they go out and win the NCAA championship. That's conceivable given the infusion of energy expected from new coach Matt Doherty, the creative scoring of SG Joseph Forte and the impact C Brendan Haywood can have. The Heels need direction at the point, whether it's from football refugee Ronald Curry or freshmen Adam Boone and

Brian Morrison. Haywood must be more consistent and less predictable. This isn't the same team. That's probably a good thing.

12. FLORIDA

The transformation PG Brett Nelson experienced in his first season was so sudden and complete it should have required a stop in a phone booth. From turnover-prone wild child to sturdy, clutch shotmaker, Nelson drove Florida in its runner-up finish. That helps, because too many of his freshman-year teammates are gone: Mike Miller, Donnell Harvey, Kenyan Weaks. The Gators, as a result, should focus on strength at the point and in the post. C Udonis Haslem showed what he could do to one-on-one coverage with 27 championship-game points and should get more touches and playing time. Florida cannot expect to use sheer numbers to overwhelm opponents, but there are enough capable athletes that pressure defense will remain a weapon. It's a measure of how far Florida has come under Billy Donovan that even a transition year still merits monitoring.

13. CINCINNATI

All those years when the Bearcats were stacked with big, muscular bodies, they kept hearing this is a guard's game. So now they've got the guards, and yet so many think this team will collapse from losing Kenyon Martin. Cincinnati does have big men. With 6-10 Donald Little and 6-11 B.J. Grove at center, this team will be taller than it has been under Bob Huggins. PG Kenny Satterfield becomes the focus of opposing defenses, but his ability to penetrate should allow the Bearcats to use more drive-and-kick plays and take advantage of shooting from PG Steve Logan, SG Leonard Stokes and SF recruit Antwan Jones. Huggins cannot expect this group to be as proficient at halfcourt man-to-man, but there is depth to extend the defense and create pressure. The keys will be how quickly Cincinnati's three JC transfers adapt and how comfortable the Bearcats are being ruled by their little guys.

14. UTAH

For a guy who talks about how hard it is to recruit for the Utes, Rick Majerus keeps stuffing his roster with talent. PF Britton Johnsen was about to become one of the game's bright stars when he left for a two-year Mormon mission. C/F Chris Burgess was one of California's most highly touted prospects when he left for Duke. OK, each is well removed from his best ball, but their skills are enhanced by Majerus' system. The one issue is whether they'll be physically ready to excel. Burgess has been bothered by back problems, and Johnsen needed muscle before he took his leave. The other issue is PG Travis Spivey, who is at his third Division I school (with a junior college thrown in along the way). The Utes struggled without Andre Miller to run things. Spivey is a more natural playmaker than those who tried filling the spot. If he is a leader as well, there seem to be enough guys to follow him.

15. ALABAMA

If you have not yet seen SF Gerald Wallace, be assured that nearly every NBA scout has. With his dynamic scoring ability, Wallace can become to Alabama what Quentin Richardson was to DePaul: a revolutionary player who reinvigorates his program. It's not as though coach Mark Gottfried is planning to preside over a one-man show, either. Sophomores Rod Grizzard, Terrance Meade and Erwin Dudley all averaged double-figure scoring in their first year. There may be a bit of addition by subtraction with Schea Cotton out, and the defense has to get better as the players mature. It may appear to be a long way from a sub-.500 finish to the top 25, but remember the Crimson Tide defeated Tennessee and Auburn at home last season.

16. WISCONSIN

What is most threatening about these Badgers is not that basically the same cast reached the 2000 Final Four, but rather that they now have reason to believe this system can work. Coach Dick Bennett still expressed doubt as recently as 10 months ago, and it's his system. But the list of victims his team compiled (Arizona, LSU, Purdue, Temple, Texas) with its devilish defense demolished that notion. If the Badgers are to step beyond even their three-week run through the sun to the position of legitimate power, they need to find a more consistent flow to their offense and replace the sharpshooting of Jon Bryant. Sophomore SG Kirk Penney figures to inherit a lot of those shots and seems capable of making his share. The Badgers also could make greater use of G Roy Boone's ability to attack the defense with his dribble. Wisconsin needs to be prettier to be better; opponents can keep playing ugly.

17. NOTRE DAME

You've got to believe some Irish fans want to see new coach Mike Brey do more with this team than Matt Doherty does in his first year after hitting-and-running to North Carolina. Brey's got all he needs in the frontcourt, starting with Wooden Award front-runner Troy Murphy. Brey might not be bound by the promise to play Ryan Humphrey on the wing. Brey didn't make that pledge, and he showed with Delaware's Mike Pegues he can make a star of an undersized post player. There's just one thing: Who plays the point? When replacing a guy like Jimmy Dillon is a problem, that's a problem. Dillon

played well above what anyone expected as a senior, but there ought to be somebody adept enough to manage the offense. If Mike Brey can find that guy, the Irish could make their first serious NCAA Tournament run since 1987. Who knocked them out that year? Carolina, of course.

18. UCLA

Had long-bombing SF Jason Kapono left his name on the NBA's early-entry draft list, the Bruins might have been a long shot to make the tournament, let alone this list. Kapono is not Lew Alcindor or Bill Walton, but his versatility on offense empowers everyone else. For the first time in a while, the Bruins don't need a lot from their recruiting class, although they'll take the minutes they can get from PF T.J. Cummings. This is the first time in four years coach Steve Lavin will have an experienced group, with senior PG Earl Watson running the offense and junior C Dan Gadzuric continuing to develop along the baseline. The Bruins cannot be as daring and explosive as when JaRon Rush and Jerome Moiso dunked Maryland out of the NCAAs last year, but they can be steady and composed and efficient. Like UCLA used to be.

19. VIRGINIA

Someone from the ACC's overcrowded bourgeois class is bound to break out this season, and the Cavaliers seem to be the team most eager to embrace success. They were 3-3 against the league's elite last season (Maryland, UNC, Duke) and that was with four of the top five scorers in their first or second seasons. Now that those guys (PF Chris Williams, G/SF Adam Hall, SG Roger Mason, C/F Travis Watson) have proved they can score, they might want to stop somebody else. Virginia was the ACC's worst defensive team and still finished third in the league, so any improvement should make a huge difference. There are some natural limitations because of the absence of frontcourt size, but the Cavaliers need to understand pressure defense doesn't merely mean creating turnovers and gambling for steals. When the Cavs are less fun to play, they'll have more fun playing.

20. CONNECTICUT

It may be less of a strain to reconfigure the Huskies with a superb recruiting class and some talented young veterans than it was to



Logan

BOB LEVERETTE/TSN

attempt a repeat of the 1999 NCAA title. This will be the first time in at least five years they will be under the charge of an inexperienced playmaker. But as much of a winning force as Khalid El-Amin could be, what hurt most a year ago was how limited UConn's scoring options became. This team should get more points from more players: freshman PF Caron Butler and veteran SG Albert Mouring, for example. And maybe, at last, SF Ajou Deng is ready to deliver on the hype that preceded his 4.5-point average sophomore year. UConn has had the capacity for serious slippage between eras, but the advantage this time is the lack of power in the Big East. The Huskies may take awhile to regain greatness, but being better than average should keep them near the top of their league.

21. USC

The pecking order for L.A. basketball always has been firmly established, but the Trojans are positioning themselves to take their more established neighbors down a notch. They were working on a similar resurgence last season, when an injury to PF Sam Clancy forced a traumatic lineup restructuring. The Trojans have more weapons than they need, but Clancy is essential in holding together the frontcourt defense. About those weapons, though: F/C Brian Scalabrine is an NBA prospect; G Jeff Trepagnier is the most spectacular leaper in college; and PG Brandon Granville is efficient and productive. If the Trojans can forget last season's eight losses in the final 12 games, they might see there was a time when their place in the NCAA Tournament was all but assured. Getting back to that point should be no trouble. Getting beyond it may require no more than 20 healthy legs.

22. ARKANSAS

It's easy to remember the Razorbacks winning five games in a row and squeezing into the NCAA Tournament with an automatic bid, but just as easy to forget they lost four of five before that. So it's presumptuous to conclude the Hogs figured it all out. These guys still have issues. Their perimeter defense is disruptive but often too easy on shooters. Like many of the teams in this neighborhood of the top 25, they are short on height. Unlike many teams anywhere, they will use 12 players to win a two-point game. Arkansas' unconventional play is part of its strength, because it's difficult to know whom to stop other than G/SF Joe Johnson. It's also a weakness, with no go-to guy in a close game. If the Razorbacks can rely as heavily on G Brandon Dean as on Teddy Gipson, this could be a memorable team.

23. OKLAHOMA

If only the NCAA were to adopt a World Basketball League format—no players taller than 6-4—the Sooners might rank at the top of this list. They don't have near the interior strength as they did the past two seasons and



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

will rely mostly on junior college recruits to fill the frontcourt. Around the perimeter, however, the Sooners are overrun with little guys who can shoot: PG Hollis Price, SG J.R. Raymond, SF Nolan Johnson. OU hasn't exactly been a walk-it-up club under Kelvin Sampson, but this team will need to play more like his teams at Washington State: chasing opponents around the court, forcing steals and turnovers and helping players like PF Aaron McGehee get one-on-one opportunities inside. The Sooners missed a chance to be great last season by a whisker. They won't get that chance this year but can be good enough to knock off teams with bigger expectations and bigger lineups.

24. DePAUL

This was to be the year Quentin Richardson took the Blue Demons to the summit, overtaking Cincinnati in Conference USA and making a Final Four run he promised upon signing. It'll be hard for him to deliver on that from the L.A. Clippers' bench. Without him, the Blue Demons are without their best athlete, toughest rebounder and one reliable 3-point shooter. DePaul's greatest need will be for perimeter scoring to complement low-post man Lance Williams. The Blue Demons can use Rashon Burno and freshman Imari Sawyer in a dual-point attack, but neither is a consistently dangerous deep shooter. Whatever rush there is to place Sawyer in the lineup should be tempered by the need for Burno's competitiveness.

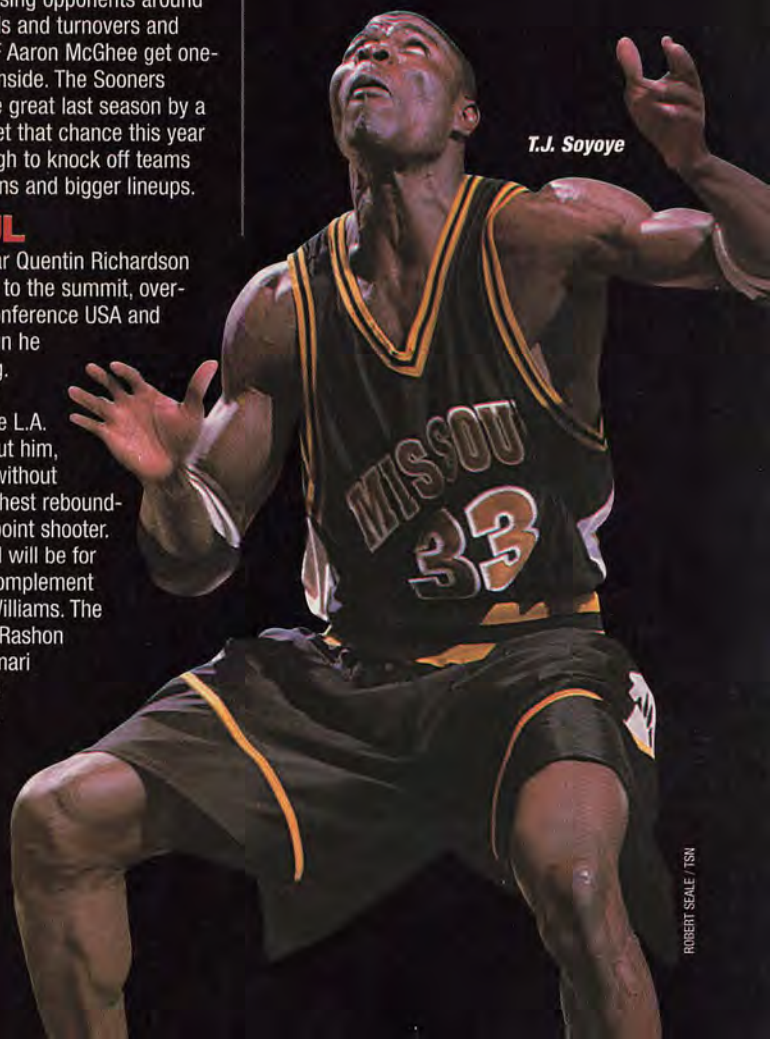
Baskets may be difficult to come by, but the defense can be better than it has shown. That's one area where Richardson's absence won't matter at all. He was all Q, no D.

25. MISSOURI

In the infancy of coach Quin Snyder's redesign, the Tigers surged ahead of schedule last season and now might take another baby step. Instead of slipping into the NCAA field, they could charge toward a first-flight seed. Missouri needs a huge season from wide-bodied PF Arthur Johnson to mitigate the shortage of power players, but it is so loaded outside that Johnson's gifted high school buddy, Rickey Paulding, will fight for every minute he gets. Missouri won't miss PG Keyon Dooling's quarterbacking so much, because he did only a little of that. Brian Grawler can handle the position, and SG Clarence Gilbert and SF Kareem Rush will continue to reign as the nation's most potent long-range shooting combo. The Tigers won't reach the level they might have if Dooling had stuck around and Travon Bryant had become eligible, but this is only a beginning.

TSN

Mike DeCourcy covers college basketball for *The Sporting News*. E-mail him at decourcy@sportingnews.com.



T.J. Soyoye

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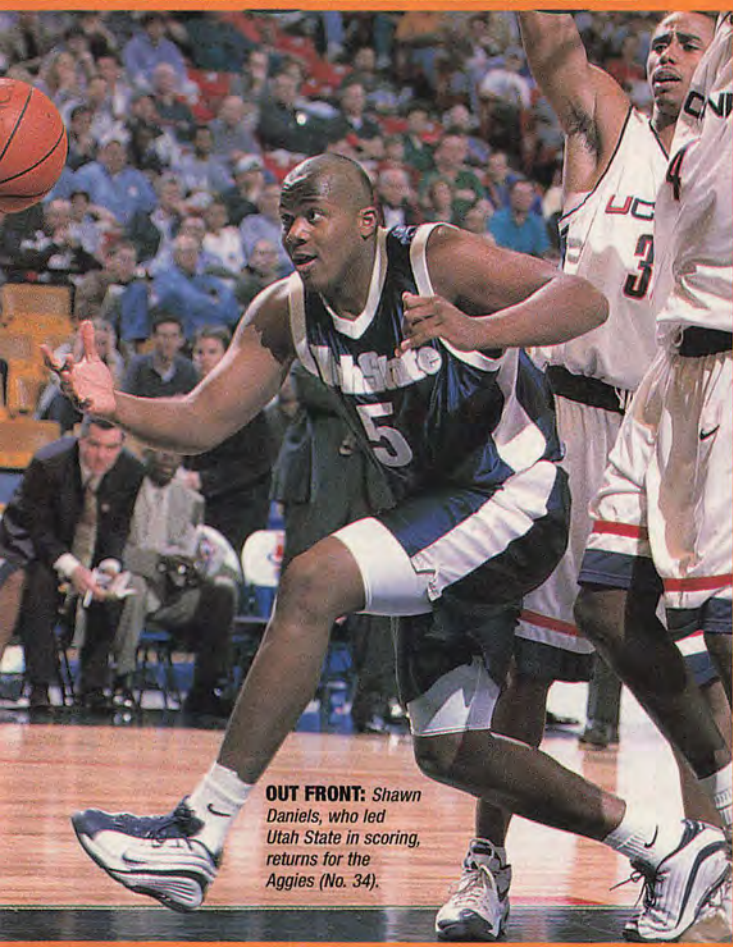
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TSN'S 26-318



OUT FRONT: Shawn Daniels, who led Utah State in scoring, returns for the Aggies (No. 34).

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

*picked to make NCAA Tournament

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 26. Texas* | 48. Marshall* |
| 27. Xavier* | 49. Charlotte |
| 28. Wake Forest* | 50. Tulsa |
| 29. St. John's* | 51. Dayton |
| 30. Georgetown* | 52. Creighton* |
| 31. Iowa* | 53. Temple |
| 32. Southern Methodist* | 54. Marquette |
| 33. Iowa State* | 55. Wyoming* |
| 34. Utah State* | 56. George Washington |
| 35. Pepperdine* | 57. South Florida |
| 36. UNLV* | 58. Mississippi State |
| 37. North Carolina State* | 59. South Carolina |
| 38. Texas Christian* | 60. Butler |
| 39. Indiana* | 61. Oregon State |
| 40. Michigan* | 62. Purdue |
| 41. Massachusetts* | 63. BYU |
| 42. Detroit* | 64. Syracuse |
| 43. Gonzaga* | 65. Louisville |
| 44. Villanova | 66. Oregon |
| 45. Fresno State | 67. Saint Louis |
| 46. Penn State | 68. Miami (Fla.) |
| 47. Memphis* | 69. Colorado |
| | 70. Kent* |

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 71. California | 126. Southeast Missouri |
| 72. Oklahoma State | 127. Clemson |
| 73. Long Beach State* | 128. Iona |
| 74. Indiana State | 129. Baylor |
| 75. Southern Mississippi | 130. Samford |
| 76. Auburn | 131. UC Irvine |
| 77. Texas Tech | 132. Illinois State |
| 78. Evansville | 133. St. Francis (N.Y.)* |
| 79. Ball State | 134. Louisiana Tech |
| 80. Richmond | 135. UC Santa Barbara |
| 81. San Diego | 136. Florida State |
| 82. Ohio State | 137. La Salle |
| 83. New Mexico | 138. Hawaii |
| 84. LSU | 139. Southwest Missouri St. |
| 85. South Alabama* | 140. Western Kentucky |
| 86. Toledo | 141. Wofford |
| 87. Mississippi | 142. Boise State |
| 88. Boston College | 143. San Jose St. |
| 89. George Mason* | 144. Drexel |
| 90. St. Joseph's | 145. Lafayette |
| 91. Southern Illinois | 146. Miami (Ohio) |
| 92. Louisiana-Lafayette | 147. Fairleigh Dickinson |
| 93. Fordham | 148. Montana State |
| 94. New Mexico State | 149. Virginia Tech |
| 95. Bowling Green | 150. Nebraska |
| 96. San Francisco | 151. UNC Greensboro |
| 97. College of Charleston* | 152. Washington |
| 98. James Madison | 153. Cleveland State |
| 99. Pennsylvania* | 154. Central Connecticut St. |
| 100. UNC Wilmington | 155. Davidson |
| 101. Niagara* | 156. Texas A&M |
| 102. Austin Peay* | 157. Northwestern State |
| 103. St. Bonaventure | 158. Delaware |
| 104. Pittsburgh | 159. Boston University |
| 105. Princeton | 160. Houston |
| 106. Ohio | 161. Georgia Southern |
| 107. Arizona State | 162. Maine |
| 108. Santa Clara | 163. Kansas State |
| 109. Rutgers | 164. Texas-San Antonio |
| 110. Hofstra* | 165. Tulane |
| 111. UAB | 166. Georgia |
| 112. Murray State | 167. Manhattan |
| 113. Minnesota | 168. Wright State |
| 114. Northern Iowa | 169. Eastern Illinois |
| 115. McNeese State* | 170. Fairfield |
| 116. West Virginia | 171. Washington State |
| 117. Wisconsin-Milwaukee | 172. Central Michigan |
| 118. Navy* | 173. Virginia Commonwealth |
| 119. Georgia Tech | 174. New Orleans |
| 120. Vanderbilt | 175. Weber State |
| 121. Cal St. Northridge* | 176. Holy Cross |
| 122. Texas-El Paso | 177. Drake |
| 123. Georgia State* | 178. Florida International |
| 124. Bradley | 179. Canisius |
| 125. Providence | 180. Eastern Michigan |

181. Northern Illinois
182. Wichita State
183. Winthrop*
184. Nicholls State
185. Tennessee Tech
186. San Diego State
187. Appalachian State
188. Montana
189. Oakland
190. Rider
191. Louisiana-Monroe
192. American
193. Radford
194. Sam Houston State
195. Colorado State
196. Valparaiso*
197. Siena
198. Northern Arizona
199. Tennessee-Martin
200. Marist
201. Missouri-Kansas City
202. Lamar
203. Duquesne
204. Akron
205. Wisconsin-Green Bay
206. Vermont

OLIP VISHNAVAT / TSN



ZAGS FORCE: Gonzaga, No. 43, may have a potent front line headed by Casey Calvary, who averaged 13.4 points last season.

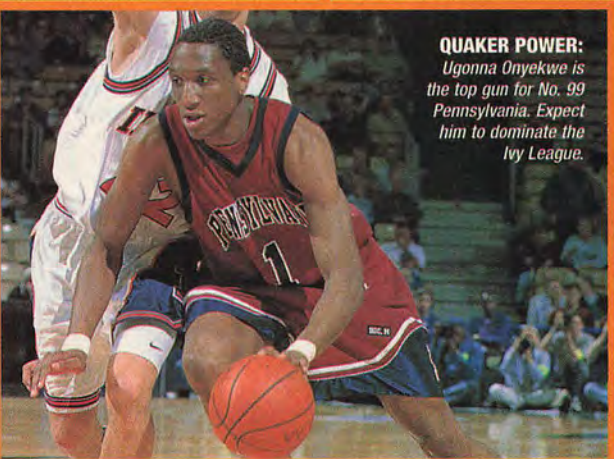
220. Texas-Pan American
221. Alabama State*
222. Quinnipiac
223. Texas-Arlington
224. Troy State
225. Towson
226. Portland
227. Air Force
228. Middle Tennessee State
229. Cal Poly

243. Coppin State
244. Yale
245. North Carolina A&T
246. Idaho
247. Wagner
248. Illinois-Chicago
249. Denver
250. IUPUI
251. Columbia
252. St. Mary's (Calif.)
253. Arkansas State
254. UNC Asheville
255. Mercer
256. Sacramento State
257. South Carolina State
258. Norfolk State
259. Tennessee State
260. Western Carolina
261. Morgan State
262. Centenary
263. Idaho State
264. Stetson
265. Jacksonville State
266. Southwest Texas State
267. Harvard
268. Northeastern
269. SUNY-Albany
270. High Point
271. Bethune-Cookman
272. Mount Saint Mary's
273. St. Francis (Pa.)
274. Mississippi Valley State
275. Elon
276. Prairie View A&M
277. Charleston Southern
278. Brown
279. Eastern Kentucky
280. Buffalo
281. Oral Roberts

282. Southern
283. Long Island
284. Coastal Carolina
285. Chicago State
286. Texas Southern
287. Belmont
288. Colgate
289. Campbell
290. Sacred Heart
291. Robert Morris
292. Liberty
293. Hartford
294. Morehead State
295. New Hampshire
296. Army
297. SUNY-Stony Brook
298. Jackson State
299. Dartmouth
300. Arkansas-Little Rock
301. Stephen F. Austin
302. The Citadel
303. Florida A&M
304. Cal State Fullerton
305. Virginia Military Inst.
306. St. Peter's
307. Lehigh
308. Cornell
309. Loyola (Md.)
310. Maryland-Eastern Shore
311. Delaware State
312. Western Illinois
313. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
314. Jacksonville
315. Loyola Marymount
316. Grambling
317. Florida Atlantic
318. Howard
- NR Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (NCAA provisional team)

QUAKER POWER: Ugonna Onyekwe is the top gun for No. 99 Pennsylvania. Expect him to dominate the Ivy League.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



207. Old Dominion
208. Rhode Island
209. Southeastern Louisiana
210. Eastern Washington
211. Central Florida
212. Southern Utah
213. Maryland-Baltimore County
214. Northwestern
215. East Carolina
216. Rice
217. North Texas
218. Monmouth
219. Hampton*

230. Loyola (Ill.)
231. Pacific (Calif.)
232. Alabama A&M
233. Youngstown State
234. Chattanooga
235. Bucknell
236. Western Michigan
237. Alcorn State
238. Nevada
239. East Tennessee State
240. William & Mary
241. Furman
242. Portland State

FRONT COURTS

Projected starters in bold

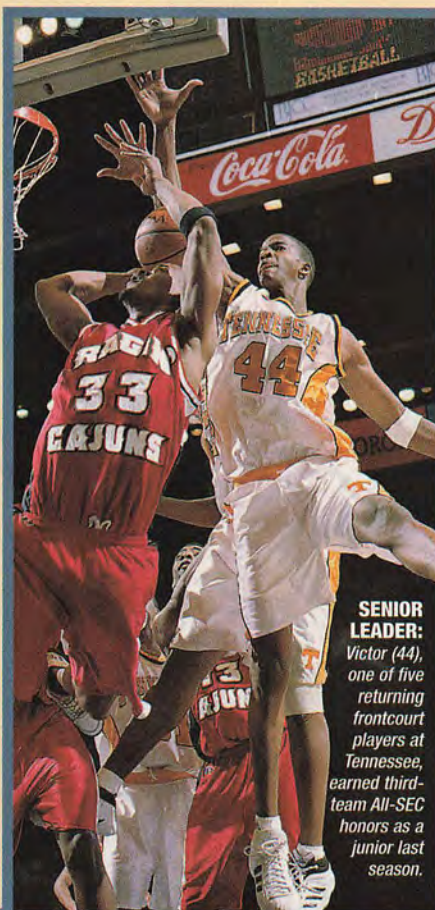
1. ARIZONA (Eugene Edgerson, **Richard Jefferson**, Luke Walton, Justin Wessel, **Loren Woods**, **Michael Wright**). The 'Cats have the nation's best center (Woods), the No. 3 power forward (Wright) and the No. 3 small forward (Jefferson). Oh, and have you seen their backcourt?

2. DUKE (Shane Battier, **Carlos Boozer**, Matt Christensen, **Mike Dunleavy**, Nick Horvath, Casey Sanders, Andre Sweet). No one's better than Battier. Boozer should continue to improve, but a little more bite would be nice. Do-everything Dunleavy is ready to blossom.

3. MARYLAND (Lonny Baxter, Tahj Holden, Mike Mardesich, **Danny Miller**, **Terence Morris**, Chris Wilcox). If Morris plays to his potential, this unit can play with anyone and the Terps can go a long, long way. Baxter is an all-around force; Miller can stroke it from outside.

4. MICHIGAN STATE (Aloysius Anagonye, Adam Ballinger, **Andre Hutson**, **Zach Randolph**, **Jason Richardson**). Freshman Randolph brings an Elton Brand-like presence to the paint. Hutson is a bulldog around the hoop. The versatile Richardson is ready for more than a supporting role.

5. KENTUCKY (Jules Camara, Marquis Estill, Jason Parker, **Tayshaun Prince**, **Marvin Stone**). Silky smooth Prince is the headliner, but Stone should embrace an expanded role. Parker's arrival adds needed depth, which is key after Camara's September arrest on charges of drunken driving.



SENIOR LEADER: Victor (44), one of five returning frontcourt players at Tennessee, earned third-team All-SEC honors as a junior last season.

6. TENNESSEE (Brandon Crump, Marcus Haislip, Charles Hathaway, **Ron Slay**, **Isiah Victor**, **Vincent Yarbrough**). Yes, the talent is there. But where is the heart? If it plays with more of a plan, this unit could lead Tennessee to big things. But this isn't the first time that has been said. Still, the ability is mouth-watering.

7. KANSAS (Eric Chenoweth, **Nick Collison**, **Drew Gooden**, **Kenny Gregory**). With their big bodies, soft touch and all-around know-how, Collison and Gooden are treasures—and they are just kids. Gregory is rough but athletic. Perennial disappointment Chenoweth has one more chance to change his Lawrence legacy.

8. NOTRE DAME (David Graves, **Ryan Humphrey**, Ivan Kartelo, Jere Macura, **Troy Murphy**, Harold Swanagan). Murphy is a college basketball superhero, but he won't be working alone. Sharpshooter Graves is a consistent scorer, and Oklahoma transfer Humphrey brings size and athleticism, even if his exact role is still iffy.

9. MISSISSIPPI STATE (Mario Austin, Michael Gholar, **Tang Hamilton**, **Robert Jackson**). Austin considered a jump straight from high school to the NBA before joining an already formidable front line in Starkville. Hamilton has the name and game to be a star.

10. USC (David Bluthenthal, **Sam Clancy**, **Brian Scalabrine**). Scalabrine scores as well as anyone in the Pac-10. Bluthenthal is Rodman-like on the boards. Clancy, the glue, does both well. If only there was a little depth.

ROBERT SEALE/TSN

10 Other Formidable Frontcourts

ALABAMA (Erwin Dudley, **Jeremy Hays**, Reggie Rambo, Kenny Walker, **Gerald Wallace**).

DEPAUL (Andre Brown, **Steve Hunter**, Jon Oden, **Bobby Simmons**, **Lance Williams**).

ILLINOIS (Robert Archibald, **Brian Cook**, **Marcus Griffin**, **Lucas Johnson**, Damir Krupalija, Sergio McClain).

INDIANA (Kirk Haston, **Jared Jeffries**, George Leach, **Jeffrey Newton**).

NORTH CAROLINA (Jason Capel, Neil Fingleton, **Brendan Haywood**, **Kris Lang**, Julius Peppers).

NC STATE (Kenny Inge, Ron Kelley, Marcus Melvin, **Damon Thornton**, **Damien Wilkins**).

SETON HALL (Samuel Dalembert, **Eddie Griffin**, Greg Morton, Kevin Wilkins).

SOUTH FLORIDA (Chonsey Asbury, **Mike Bernard**, **Altron Jackson**, Cedric Smith, **B.B. Waldon**).

TEXAS (Brian Boddicker, **Jason Klotz**, Chris Ogden, **Chris Owens**, James Thomas, William Wyatt).

UCLA (Matt Barnes, T.J. Cummings, **Dan Gadzuric**, Rico Hines, Josiah Johnson, **Jason Kapono**).

BACKCOURTS

Projected starters in bold

1. DUKE (Chris Duhon, **Nate James**, **Jason Williams**). If James' knees hold up, the Devils will dominate. If they don't, the Devils will dominate—thanks to Duhon's arrival and the versatility of Mike Dunleavy.

2. ARIZONA (John Ash, Rick Anderson, **Gilbert Arenas**, Lamont Frazier, **Jason Gardner**, Travis Hanour). Point Guard U also is cranking 'em out at off-guard these days, with Hanour expected to add depth that was so lacking last season.

3. MICHIGAN STATE (Charlie Bell, Mike Chappell, **Marcus Taylor**, Brandon Smith, David Thomas). With so much depth, so many interchangeable parts and the arrival of Taylor at the point, losing that Cleaves character won't be as painful as one might think.

4. MARYLAND (Steve Blake, **Juan Dixon**, Byron Mouton, Drew Nicholas). The addition of the 6-6, 215-pound Mouton provides the young backcourt with the only thing it lacked last season: size.

5. FLORIDA (Teddy Dupay, Orien Greene, LaDarius Halton, Justin Hamilton, **Brett Nelson**). Countless options will again mean countless substitutions for the go-go Gators. Halton's return from knee surgery and Greene's eligibility add some needed explosiveness.



COMING ON: Hinrich was Kansas' starting point guard for the final 13 games of his 1999-2000 freshman season.

6. ARKANSAS (T.J. Cleveland, Brandon Davis, **Brandon Dean**, Blake Eddins, **Teddy Gipson**, **Joe Johnson**, Charles Tatum). With Johnson leading the way, there's plenty of firepower, speed and defense. If this crew can hit its 3s and help on the boards, those minutes of hell will reach closer to 40 again.

7. OKLAHOMA (Nolan Johnson, **Hollis Price**, J.R. Raymond, Tim Heskett, Kelley Newton). The team's biggest question mark last season is now its biggest answer. Johnson, a 220-pound lefty, puts up frontcourt numbers, and Raymond, Newton and Heskett can hit 3s with their eyes closed.

8. SETON HALL (Andre Barrett, Desmond Herod, **Darius Lane**, **Ty Shine**, Marcus Toney-El). The three-guard lineup may be a thing of the past, but big offensive numbers from the backcourt won't be, regardless of who runs the point—NCAA hero Shine or touted frosh Barrett.

9. MISSOURI (Clarence Gilbert, **Brian Grawer**, Josh Kroenke, Rickey Paulding, Wesley Stokes). Some questions remain at the point with Keyon Dooling's early departure, but this much is certain: There's no way the team can surpass last season's 804 attempted 3s.

10. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (**Brandon Granville**, Desmon Farmer, Nate Hair, Robert Hutchinson, **Jeff Trepagnier**). Opposing defenses can't keep them from scoring; opposing offenses can hardly score on them. Now, if they can just keep their teammates healthy.

10 Other Formidable Backcourts

ALABAMA (Rod Grizzard, **Tarik London**, Doc Martin, **Terrance Meade**, Antoine Pettaway, Demetrius Smith).

CINCINNATI (Steve Logan, Immanuel McElroy, **Kenny Satterfield**, Leonard Stokes).

CREIGHTON (Ryan Sears, Terrell Taylor, **Ben Walker**).

ILLINOIS (Cory Bradford, Sean Harrington, Jerrance Howard, **Frank Williams**).

IOWA STATE (Brandon Hawkins, **Kantrail Horton**, Jake Sullivan, **Jamaal Tinsley**).

KANSAS (Luke Axtell, **Jeff Boschee**, **Kirk Hinrich**).

LSU (Torris Bright, Ronald Dupree, **Lamont Roland**, Collis Temple III).

PENN STATE (Joe Crispin, Jon Crispin, Titus Ivory, Brandon Watkins).

STANFORD (Julius Barnes, **Michael McDonald**, **Casey Jacobsen**, Tony Giovacchini, Matt Lottich).

VIRGINIA (Keith Friel, **Adam Hall**, **Donald Hand**, Majestic Mapp, Roger Mason).

Note: Mapp is injured and will miss part of the season.

PLAYER RANKINGS

TSN All-American team

FIRST TEAM

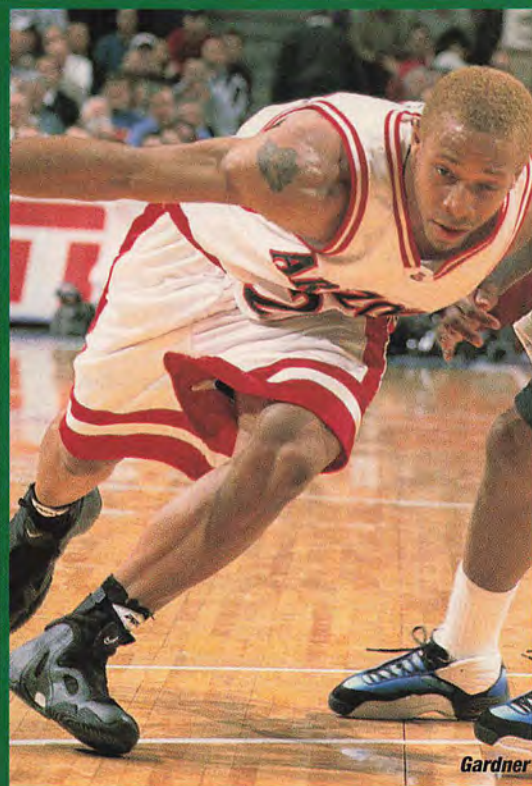
Pos.	Name	Class	School	PPG	RPG	APG
G	Jamaal Tinsley	senior	Iowa State	11.0	5.1	6.6
G	Casey Jacobsen	sophomore	Stanford	14.5	3.0	2.3
F	Troy Murphy	junior	Notre Dame	22.7	10.3	1.6
F	Shane Battier	senior	Duke	17.4	5.6	2.1
C	Loren Woods	senior	Arizona	15.6	7.5	1.5

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	Class	School	PPG	RPG	APG
G	Jason Williams	sophomore	Duke	14.5	4.2	6.5
G	Juan Dixon	junior	Maryland	18.0	5.5	3.6
F	Jason Kapono	sophomore	UCLA	16.0	4.4	1.9
F	Terence Morris	senior	Maryland	15.8	8.6	2.4
C	Lonny Baxter	junior	Maryland	16.3	8.0	0.9

MIKE DeCOURCY'S PLAYER RANKINGS

Top 20 point guards



Rk.	Player	School	Comment
1.	Jamaal Tinsley	Iowa State	No one knows where he came from, only that he's going to the hole.
2.	Jason Williams	Duke	Turnover numbers were way, way down with U.S. national team.
3.	Kenny Satterfield	Cincinnati	Started only half the season as a freshman, but it was the important half.
4.	Jason Gardner	Arizona	Shooting percentage was the only rookie-year number that wasn't glorious.
5.	Brett Nelson	Florida	His maturity came suddenly, but fortuitously, for a team courting underachievement.
6.	Tony Harris	Tennessee	The Volunteers were 2-6 when he failed to score in double figures.
7.	Brandon Granville	USC	Averaged 15.5 ppg and 9.5 apg against hated UCLA.
8.	Frank Williams	Illinois	Tremendous talent still struggling with the meaning of playing the point.
9.	Marcus Taylor	Michigan State	MSU couldn't design a better Cleaves replacement in a science lab.
10.	Mike Kelley	Wisconsin	How many guys have a steals-to-turnover ratio of 2.7-to-1?
11.	Steve Blake	Maryland	There's room to improve as a shooter and defender, but he has impressed as a leader.
12.	Kirk Hinrich	Kansas	Far tougher than he looks, Hinrich held opposing PGs in NCAAAs to 4-of-24 shooting.
13.	Rashad Phillips	Detroit	By scoring or assisting, had a hand in 48 percent of the Titans' points.
14.	Earl Watson	UCLA	Created a career memory with halfcourt lob passes to JaRon Rush vs. Maryland.
15.	Joe Crispin	Penn State	If you can't tell which Crispin brother is which, Joe's the one with the ball.
16.	Michael Stokes	SE Missouri St.	Played wire-to-wire five times, including double-OT loss to Austin Peay.
17.	Kevin Braswell	Georgetown	Needed only four 3-pointers to score 40 in NIT win over Virginia.
18.	Hollis Price	Oklahoma	Showed a flair for March Madness, with 11.3 ppg and 4.9 apg in seven games.
19.	Demetrius Porter	Fresno State	Too small to be called an "ironman" but rested only five minutes per game.
20.	Reece Gaines	Louisville	Last season fatigue caused him to settle for 3-pointers; he can't afford it.

Top 20 shooting guards

Rk.	Name	School	Comment
1.	Casey Jacobsen	Stanford	Averaged 16.2 points and 49 percent 3-point shooting after becoming a starter.
2.	Juan Dixon	Maryland	Mourned Bobby Cremins' retirement after averaging 32 ppg vs. Tech.
3.	Joseph Forte	North Carolina	The best freshman wing in UNC history, MJ notwithstanding.
4.	Jeryl Sasser	SMU	As versatile as anyone, but finished on an 0-for-17 3-point streak.
5.	Maurice Evans	Texas	Scored his last point nearly 20 months ago, but hasn't forgotten how.
6.	Gilbert Arenas	Arizona	Leading a team this talented in shots attempted is quite an accomplishment.
7.	Keith Bogans	Kentucky	An 18.7 scoring average in three postseason games confirmed his potential.
8.	Charlie Bell	Michigan State	The Spartans' 12-2 NCAA record in his career is no coincidence.
9.	Jeff Trepagnier	Southern California	His jumping ability is so distracting, you forget he's a shooter.
10.	J.R. Raymond	Oklahoma	His playmaking ability allows the Sooners to attack from any direction.
11.	Chuck Eidson	South Carolina	Whether he's playing point, small forward or a shooting guard, he's a player.
12.	Monty Mack	Massachusetts	His degree may be worth a job someday; now it gets him another season.
13.	Bernard King	Texas A&M	Had to do it all as a freshman for rebuilding Aggies, so he did.
14.	SirValiant Brown	George Washington	Shot 1,218 times including free throws, and, boy, are his arms tired.
15.	D.A. Layne	Georgia	Coach Harrick promises Layne will learn shot selection—or else.
16.	Cory Bradford	Illinois	Six of every 10 shots were from long range, making the Illini a long shot to excel.
17.	Robert O'Kelley	Wake Forest	Began his offseason in a disheartening slump, but hopes for a fresh start.
18.	Rod Grizzard	Alabama	Too gifted an athlete to settle for so many 3s, but experience has to help.
19.	Brandon Armstrong	Pepperdine	His 20.5 NCAA tourney scoring average came against defensive gods Sutton and Knight.
20.	Albert Mouring	Connecticut	Has the opportunity to star for the Huskies, if he can handle it.

Top 20 small forwards

Rk.	Name	School	Comment
1.	Terence Morris	Maryland	He can take a mulligan for last year but is running out of time to dominate.
2.	Jason Kapono	UCLA	Perhaps the best and definitely the most effective shooter in the country.
3.	Richard Jefferson	Arizona	If not for last season's injuries, he might be in the NBA now.
4.	Jason Richardson	Michigan State	Nine clutch title-game points were a launching pad for his sophomore year.
5.	Trenton Hassell	Austin Peay	No one who has seen him doesn't love him, but almost no one has seen him.
6.	Joe Johnson	Arkansas	Half a season for Johnson was better than a whole year for most classmates.
7.	LaVell Blanchard	Michigan	His long-range shooting (.363) should improve with maturity.
8.	Kareem Rush	Missouri	The Big 12 paid after Rush's suspension for accepting summer-league payments
9.	Tayshaun Prince	Kentucky	When he figures out he's a scorer and not a shooter, Prince will reign.
10.	Mike Dunleavy	Duke	It won't take nepotism to get a guy with these skills into the NBA.
11.	Gerald Wallace	Alabama	Wallace is so quick, he had the best first step in college before he arrived.
12.	Jared Jeffries	Indiana	Fans are counting on Jeffries to deliver the Hoosiers from notoriety to prominence.
13.	Altron Jackson	South Florida	USF might find its way to the NAAs by following Jackson's lead.
14.	Damien Wilkins	N.C. State	He was the most mature Pack player in his freshman year.
15.	David Shelton	Tulsa	When a player is best described as a "Larry Johnson type," he is dangerous.
16.	Vincent Yarbrough	Tennessee	With his frame and ball skills, Yarbrough could be No. 1 if it mattered to him.
17.	Ricardo Greer	Pittsburgh	Led the Panthers in scoring, rebounding, free throws and, um, turnovers.
18.	David Bluthenthal	USC	The best rebounder at small forward, Bluthenthal remains another Trojan lost in Bruin-land.
19.	Jason Capel	North Carolina	The reward for filling so many positions should be a season at his natural spot.
20.	Tamar Slay	Marshall	Sudden sophomore stardom stunned the Mid-American Conference.

Top 20 power forwards

Rk.	Name	School	Comment
1.	Shane Battier	Duke	He may lose the Wooden Award, but there's always the 2028 presidential election.
2.	Troy Murphy	Notre Dame	He may be the No. 2 power forward, but Murphy also is the No. 2 player overall.
3.	Michael Wright	Arizona	Averaged 17.8 points and 9.6 rebounds after Loren Woods was injured.
4.	Brian Scalabrine	USC	Joins Sam Clancy to form the thickest front wall in the nation.
5.	Casey Calvary	Gonzaga	Produced 25 percent more points per shot than Gonzaga's star guards combined.
6.	Brian Cook	Illinois	Lon Kruger may be in the NBA, but Bill Self will know what to do with Cook.
7.	Eddie Griffin	Seton Hall	Simply put, he's the best player ever to sign at the Hall.
8.	Chris Williams	Virginia	He's not what you would typically call a power forward, but he's definitely a player.
9.	George Williams	Houston	A year of being coached by Clyde cost him 22 losses but not his fire on the court.
10.	Ron Slay	Tennessee	If all Tennessee's players had his heart, they all might have Final Four rings.
11.	Drew Gooden	Kansas	Needs strength to last a full season; he shot only .339 in his last six games.
12.	Sean Lampley	California	In Cal's 12-man rotation, Lampley was too important to rotate off the court.
13.	Andre Hutson	Michigan State	The addition of C Zach Randolph gives Hutson more freedom to roam.
14.	Josh Davis	Wyoming	Stuck at center after Ugo Udezue's injury, Davis again gets to do what he does best.
15.	Isaac Spencer	Murray State	OVC opponents thought they had seen the last of him. Wrong.
16.	David West	Xavier	If he can keep his cool, the Musketeers could become a hot commodity.
17.	Anthony Evans	Georgia	Evans produced 10 double-doubles in his first season of Division I ball.
18.	Anthony Glover	St. John's	He's got shooting guard size and believes he's a small forward, but Glover is quite OK as a power forward.
19.	Chris Owens	Texas	Moving from Tulane made him better; moving from the shadows will make him a star.
20.	George Evans	George Mason	Led the Pats in points, rebounds, blocks, free throws and war stories.

Top 20 centers

Rk.	Name	School	Comment
1.	Loren Woods	Arizona	After finally proving he has a backbone, he went and injured it.
2.	Lonny Baxter	Maryland	Not really what we think of as a classic center, but <i>you</i> tell him that.
3.	Zach Randolph	Michigan State	The Hawks offered Tom Izzo \$15 million; MSU offered the chance to coach Zach.
4.	Kelly Wise	Memphis	Can Memphians love a non-native Tiger? Wise answers that perpetual question this year.
5.	Kaspars Kambala	UNLV	His 32-point, 18-rebound effort at New Mexico mocked the horrors of the Pit.
6.	Marvin Stone	Kentucky	After caddying for Jamaal Magloire, he's ready to take a swing at starting.
7.	Udonis Haslem	Florida	Single-cover Haslem, and you better have Mateen and MoPete scoring at the other end.
8.	Carlos Boozer	Duke	Coach K's desire for more passion from Boozer is the nation's worst-kept secret.
9.	Nick Collison	Kansas	He saves KU fans from all those fadeaway jumpers by 7-foot Eric Chenowith.
10.	Samuel Dalembert	Seton Hall	Maybe he can't score, but no one else can when he plays, either.
11.	Marcus Griffin	Illinois	Teammates got him only 7.4 shots a game; is that a felony or misdemeanor?
12.	Kirk Haston	Indiana	An injury after two minutes spared him the pain of playing in that Pepperdine game.
13.	Brendan Haywood	North Carolina	If he wants to be a lottery pick, the choice is entirely up to him.
14.	Ken Johnson	Ohio State	He'll block anyone's shot, but these Buckeyes need him to launch a few.
15.	Rodney White	Charlotte	Had he been eligible last season, Charlotte would be riding a four-year NCAA streak.
16.	Melvin Ely	Fresno State	Needs to get to the line more than twice a game if he wants to be great.
17.	Dan Gadzuric	UCLA	A double-double at UNC followed by one rebound vs. Arizona. You figure it out.
18.	Jarron Collins	Stanford	Still struggles with consistency on inside finishes, but is inches from being a force.
19.	Chris Young	Princeton	He shoots, he rebounds, he passes, he blocks shots—and he pitches!
20.	Michael Bradley	Villanova	There may not be a more skilled offensive center; if he does more, he'll climb this list.

CAN'T GET ENOUGH ?



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Atlantic Coast

ASCENDING: Virginia. The Cavaliers have gone from 11-19 in 1997-98, former coach Jeff Jones' final season, to 14-16 in Pete Gillen's first season, to 19-12 last year. The next step is the toughest for a team that started one junior, two sophomores and two freshmen in its final game last season.

DESCENDING: Florida State. After going 20-14 in Pat Kennedy's last season, the Seminoles have gone 18-14, 13-17 and 12-17 under Steve Robinson. There hasn't been a precipitous fall over the past two seasons, but the cupboard is so bare that FSU will have trouble winning 10 games.

By DOUG DOUGHTY

Roanoke (Va.) Times

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Duke* | 6. North Carolina State* |
| 2. Maryland* | 7. Georgia Tech |
| 3. North Carolina* | 8. Clemson |
| 4. Virginia* | 9. Florida State |
| 5. Wake Forest* | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Joseph Forte, North Carolina	6-4	185	So.
G	Jason Williams, Duke	6-2	190	So.
C	Lonny Baxter, Maryland	6-8	250	Jr.
F	Shane Battier, Duke	6-8	215	Sr.
F	Terence Morris, Maryland	6-9	205	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Juan Dixon, Maryland	6-3	152	Jr.
G	Steve Blake, Maryland	6-3	175	So.
C	Brendan Haywood, North Carolina	7-0	264	Sr.
F/C	Carlos Boozer, Duke	6-9	260	So.
F	Damien Wilkins, NC State	6-6	225	So.

Player of the Year

Shane Battier, F, Duke

Newcomer of the Year

Chris Duhon, G, Duke

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Joseph Forte, North Carolina
- Best rebounder:** Lonny Baxter, Maryland
- Best playmaker:** Steve Blake, Maryland
- Best defender:** Shane Battier, Duke
- Best leaper:** Adam Hall, Virginia
- Best under 6-0:** Donald Hand, Virginia
- Best over 7-0:** Brendan Haywood, North Carolina
- Most versatile:** Shane Battier, Duke
- Most flamboyant:** Damien Wilkins, North Carolina State
- Best NBA prospect:** Shane Battier, Duke

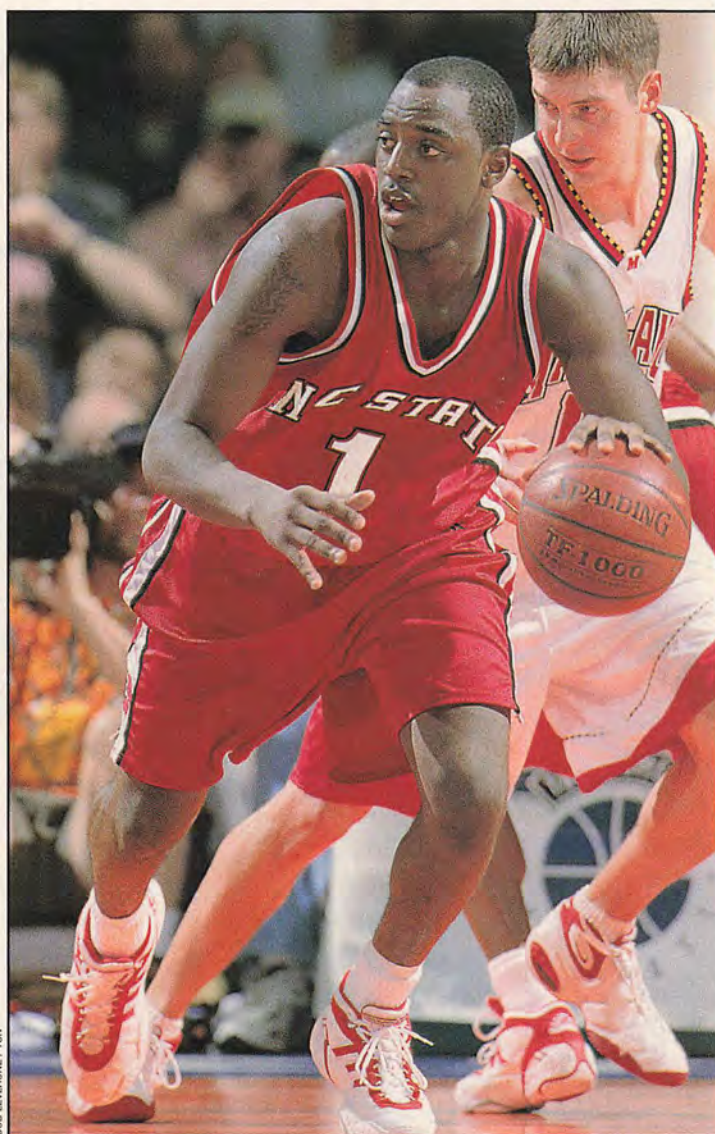
BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Ed Cota, North Carolina. Expectations will be high after last year's Final Four appearance and the arrival of new coach Matt Doherty. Never mind that the Tar Heels lost nine of 16 games heading into the NCAA Tournament. They weren't great with Cota, so it might be unrealistic to think they'll be great without him. If there's a slide, the easiest player to blame will be the point guard. A freshman—Adam Boone or Brian Morrison—is most likely to start.

MOST UNDER-RATED PLAYER:

Damien Wilkins, NC State. At least Wilkins felt he was underrated last season, and he was probably right. In the ACC Tournament, in which he helped lead the Wolfpack to an upset victory over Virginia and a near upset of Maryland, Wilkins ran by press row and verbally chastised the media for not naming him to the ACC All-Freshman team.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Robert O'Kelley, Wake Forest. You hate to say it because he has suffered enough already, but here's a player who was ACC Rookie of the Year as a freshman, a second-team All-ACC selection as a sophomore and a first-team all-conference choice on everybody's preseason team last year. Wake Forest finally decided that O'Kelley was not a point guard, but when he was moved to shooting



WHAT ABOUT ME? Wilkins didn't get much recognition last season for someone who set NC State freshman records by starting 34 games and playing 1,083 minutes.

guard, nothing fell for him. He did not make first-, second- or third-team All-ACC. To his credit, he rallied late and was named MVP in the NIT.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: This is a toss-up between Clemson's Larry Shyatt and Florida State's Robinson. Florida State athletic director Dave Hart seems to have more of a stake in Robinson's success, given that Robinson was Hart's first major

hire and needed considerable prodding before taking the job. Tigers A.D. Bobby Robinson endeared himself to the Clemson faithful with his selection of Tommy Bowden as football coach, so he may have more latitude to make a change with the school's basketball coach.

BEST BETS: Duke will finish first in the regular season for the fifth year in a row. No other team has done it more than four times. ... The Blue Devils' Nate James, a 1997-98 redshirt, is bidding to play on a regular-season championship team for the fifth straight year. Only James and Chris Carrawell have done it four times. ... North Carolina will enjoy its 31st consecutive season with at least 20 victories. ... An ACC team will make the Final Four for the fifth year in a row. ... Duke forward Shane Battier will set a record for most wins by an ACC player. Christian Laettner set the record of 122 at Duke from 1989-92. Battier is at 96.

ODDS AND ENDS: There's good news for Wake Forest. All four ACC teams that have won the NIT have made it to the NCAA Tournament the next year. ... Players transferring out of the ACC include Florida State's Emanuel Mathis (Virginia Commonwealth), North Carolina State's Marshall Williams (Marquette) and Virginia's Colin Ducharme (Longwood). ... Players sitting out the 2000-01 season after transferring into the ACC are Wake

Forest's Steve Lepore (from Northwestern) and Duke's Dahntay Jones (Rutgers). ... Among the ACC football players who plan to play basketball after the season are quarterbacks Ronald Curry from North Carolina, Calvin McCall from Maryland and Bryson Spinner, a backup from Virginia. The most effective two-sport athlete last year was North Carolina defensive end-power forward Julius Peppers. ... Mike Krzyzewski, entering his 21st season at Duke, is first among ACC coaches in seniority. Next are Maryland's Gary Williams and Wake Forest's Dave Odom with 11 seasons each. The other six head coaches have a combined 11 seasons of ACC head coaching experience. ... At the time of his resignation this past summer, North Carolina's Bill Guthridge had won 80 games in three seasons. That matched the all-time record set by onetime NC State coach Everett Case from 1946-49. ... Clemson's Will Solomon lifted his scoring average from 6.3 as a freshman in 1998-99 to 20.9 last season. That ranks as the single greatest one-season scoring gain in ACC history. ... Duke's Shane Battier led the ACC in 3-point percentage (.444) and was second in 3-point field goals (79) only two years after he was 4-for-24 on 3-pointers as a freshman. ... The ACC has produced more Final Four teams since 1990 (12) than any other league. The SEC has nine.



Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
Will Solomon	Clemson	20.9
Juan Dixon	Maryland	18.0
Shane Battier	Duke	17.4
Joseph Forte	North Carolina	16.7
Terence Morris	Maryland	15.8

Name	School	RPG
Lonny Baxter	Maryland	8.8
Terence Morris	Maryland	8.6
Travis Watson	Virginia	8.3
Alvin Jones	Georgia Tech	8.0
Damon Thornton	NC State	7.6

Name	School	APG
Jason Williams	Duke	6.5
Delvon Arrington	Florida State	6.3
Steve Blake	Maryland	6.2
Donald Hand	Virginia	4.2
Juan Dixon	Maryland	3.6

Name	School	FG%
Brendan Haywood	North Carolina	70.0
Carlos Boozer	Duke	61.4
Julius Peppers	North Carolina	56.0
Josh Shoemaker	Wake Forest	54.7
Travis Watson	Virginia	53.5

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Duke	15	1	29	5	13	2	16	3
Maryland	11	5	25	10	15	1	10	9
North Carolina	9	7	22	14	7	5	15	9
Virginia	9	7	19	12	11	3	8	9
Wake Forest	7	9	22	14	11	4	11	10
North Carolina St.	6	10	20	14	17	3	3	11
Florida State	6	10	12	17	8	6	4	11
Georgia Tech	5	11	13	17	11	3	2	14
Clemson	4	12	10	20	7	9	3	11

Ranking the Recruiting

1. North Carolina: Matt Doherty can thank Bill Guthridge for his efforts. 7-6 Neil Fingleton is the nation's tallest project.
2. North Carolina State: The Wolfpack is happy with its trio of North Carolinians—Michael Bell, Marcus Melvin and Scooter Sherrill.
3. Duke: Chris Duhon would have been sweet by himself, but the Devils also got a commitment from all-purpose forward Andre Sweet.
4. Virginia: The Cavaliers felt J.C. Mathis was the best big man with grades who went unsigned last fall.
5. Clemson: Chris Hobbs' knee surgery scared off the North Carolina schools.
6. Florida State: Michael Joiner could start right away for this team.
7. Maryland: Landing Chris Wilcox doesn't help the Terps where they really need depth, the backcourt, but he may eventually be a difference maker.
8. Wake Forest: It didn't get Fingleton but did come away with 7-footer Dshamal Schoetz from Germany.
9. Georgia Tech: New coach Paul Hewitt didn't get anyone of note in the spring.



NO WAY, D.A.: Delvon Arrington, playing on a young FSU team, may not duplicate last season's 6.3-assist average.



TIGER LEAP: No ACC player had ever lifted his scoring average 14.6 points in one year until Will Solomon did it last season.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Duke	34	48.1	74.2	38.3	38.6	17.2	9.8	5.6	14.1	88.0
Virginia	31	45.1	67.8	32.7	36.3	14.1	8.8	3.1	15.5	81.5
Maryland	35	46.5	68.5	35.3	38.7	19.0	10.1	6.7	16.3	76.7
North Carolina	35	49.5	70.3	34.9	38.6	16.9	5.9	4.9	14.8	75.9
Georgia Tech	30	40.8	68.3	34.3	38.9	15.2	6.5	4.9	17.0	70.6
Wake Forest	34	43.5	66.9	30.9	38.3	13.3	6.2	4.1	13.6	70.0
NC State	32	43.1	64.6	33.3	36.5	12.7	9.2	4.7	15.7	69.3
Florida State	29	41.2	68.4	35.6	37.1	12.1	5.3	4.1	15.5	64.6
Clemson	30	40.4	67.1	33.2	39.1	13.0	4.9	3.0	15.1	64.4

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
NC State	32	41.5	68.6	31.9	34.9	11.8	6.8	3.0	18.5	63.3
Wake Forest	34	40.9	69.4	32.0	33.7	11.6	4.9	3.4	14.8	64.8
Maryland	35	40.2	68.3	32.2	37.0	13.2	8.1	3.9	18.5	68.2
Clemson	30	40.9	67.9	34.3	34.7	13.3	7.0	4.0	11.2	70.0
Florida State	29	42.7	64.0	36.2	36.0	13.1	7.8	4.6	11.6	70.2
North Carolina	35	40.8	69.4	31.0	34.3	14.0	8.0	3.3	11.7	70.2
Duke	34	41.7	67.0	35.7	37.7	13.9	7.1	3.6	18.0	71.3
Georgia Tech	30	42.5	69.7	37.1	36.7	15.1	8.1	2.5	14.2	71.4
Virginia	31	46.4	66.2	35.6	38.6	12.8	6.1	3.6	20.0	75.4

1. Duke

NATIONAL RANK

1

Schedule

N14 Princeton*
 N25 Army
 N28 Illinois**
 D2 at Temple
 D5 Davidson
 D9 Michigan
 D19 at Portland
 D21 Stanford***
 D30 North Carolina A&T
 J4 at Florida State
 J7 Clemson
 J10 at N.C. State
 J13 Virginia
 J16 Boston College
 J20 at Georgia Tech
 J24 Wake Forest
 J27 at Maryland
 F1 North Carolina
 F4 Florida State
 F7 at Clemson
 F10 N.C. State
 F14 at Virginia
 F18 at St. John's
 F21 Georgia Tech
 F24 at Wake Forest
 F27 Maryland
 M4 at North Carolina

*Preseason NIT

**Greensboro, N.C.

***Oakland, Calif.

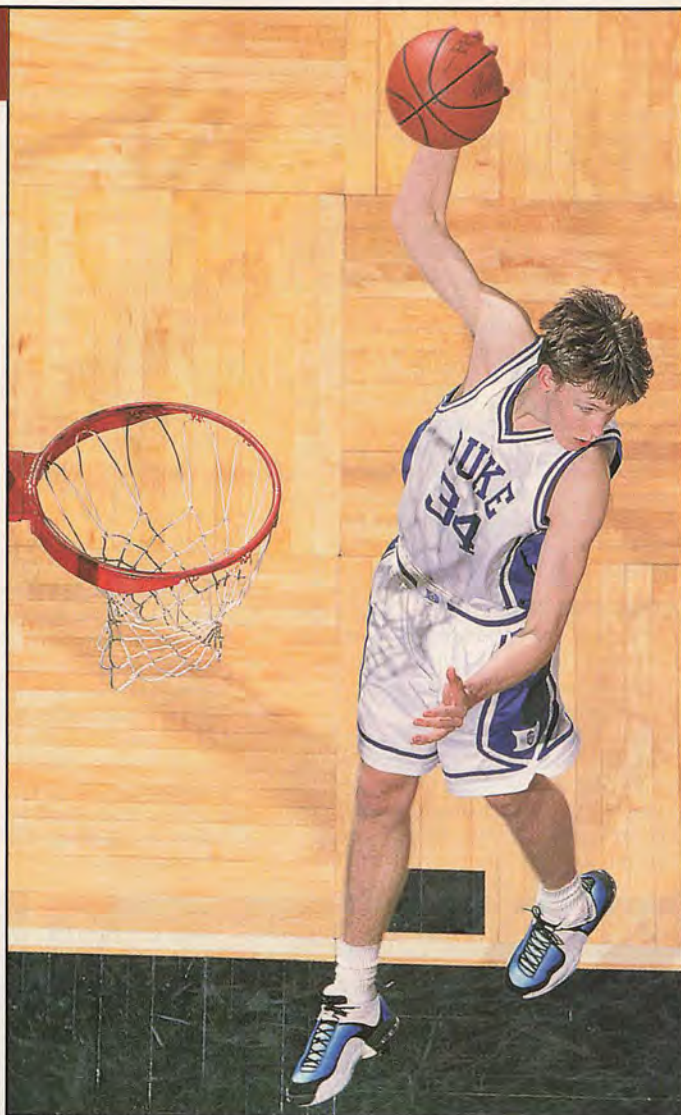
FRONTCOURT: When Chris Carrawell was named ACC Player of the Year last season, it marked the first time since 1963-64 that different players from the same school had received the honor in back-to-back seasons. Duke's Elton Brand, of course, was the choice in 1998-99. Shane Battier could make it three Blue Devils in a row this season, which has never happened at any ACC school. Although Carrawell had a career season, Battier may have been the best player in the conference last year. He tied for second in the ACC in 3-pointers per game, finished third in scoring and free-throw percentage and was fifth in field-goal percentage, blocks and steals. He'll be joined by a first-team ACC All-Freshman choice in forward Carlos Boozer and a rare quality fifth-year senior in Nate James. James often gets overlooked, but he averaged double-figure points and made 46 3-pointers. The 6-9, 260-pound Boozer is a moose who shook off an early stress fracture to lead the team in rebounding, ensuring there was no dropoff after Brand left for the NBA. Mike Dunleavy is forward-sized at 6-7, but he shoots and handles the ball well enough to be a candidate to start at shooting guard. If he doesn't, he'll share time with James and be available to spell Battier.

BACKCOURT: Coach Mike Krzyzewski does not like to use the traditional one-to-five numbering system to categorize his players. It might have been impossible last

year, when Duke had a point guard in Jason Williams and, basically, four forwards. The Blue Devils couldn't have asked for more out of Williams, who became a starter almost out of necessity following William Avery's surprising, late jump to the NBA in the spring of 1999. Williams, a close second to North Carolina's Joseph Forte in ACC Rookie of the Year balloting, became the fourth freshman in 37 years to be named most valuable player in the ACC Tournament. He was a scorer (14.5 points per game) and a distributor (213 assists) and led the team in steals with 78. But Williams needs to become a little more careful with the ball after committing an ACC-high 134 turnovers last season. Duke doesn't have a shooting guard per se, although Battier, Carrawell, Dunleavy and even James have ably handled most of those responsibilities. Dunleavy can do most of what's needed offensively, but he has trouble staying with the Fortes of the world. That's where freshman Chris Duhon enters the picture.

KEY NEWCOMER: Many schools were recruiting Duhon, a 6-1 guard from Slidell, La., as a point. Obviously, Duke already had Williams at the position. But both Williams and Duhon shoot well enough that they should have little trouble playing in the same backcourt. Krzyzewski has not been averse to playing two point guards at the same time in past years. One of his assistant coaches, Steve Wojciechowski, frequently teamed with Avery in a similar arrangement in 1997-98.

STRATEGY: The Blue Devils have gone 15-1, 16-0 and 15-1 in the ACC over the past three regular seasons and have won back-to-back ACC Tournament championships. There's little reason to believe that will change. Florida surprised the Blue Devils in an East Region semifinal last year, but that should serve as the motivation for another trip to the Final Four. Nothing's a given, as Duke learned last year, but Krzyzewski definitely has the material for a third NCAA championship.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITY: Despite starting only two of 30 games, the versatile Dunleavy finished sixth on the team in scoring and fifth in rebounding as a freshman.

Blue Devils

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (498-160, 20 years; 571-219 overall, 25 years; 50-14 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 29-5, ACC: 15-1/1st. Lost to Florida in NCAA East semifinal.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.

Site: Durham, N.C.

Website: www.GoDuke.com

Home court: Cameron Indoor Stadium (9,314).

DATA

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	Fg%	Ft%	3%
31	F	Shane Battier*	6-8/215	Sr.	17.4	5.6	2.1	49.6	81.7	44.4
4	C	Carlos Boozer*	6-9/260	So.	13.0	6.3	1.1	61.4	74.2	0.0
30	G	Andy Borman	6-0/175	So.	0.0	.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	G	Andre Buckner	5-10/180	So.	1.0	0.5	0.4	50.0	58.8	75.0
5	G	Ryan Calbeck	6-3/190	Sr.	0.6	0.3	0.0	20.0	50.0	33.3
41	F	Matt Christensen	6-10/240	Jr.	2.0	2.3	0.3	39.2	58.3	0.0
21	G	Chris Duhon	6-2/180	Fr.	Morgan Wootten national HS Player of the Year.					
34	G/F	Mike Dunleavy	6-7/200	So.	9.1	4.3	1.7	46.0	73.8	35.1
3	F	Nick Horvath	6-10/215	So.	3.4	1.9	0.3	47.4	77.8	36.0
14	G	Nate James*	6-6/205	Sr.	11.0	4.5	1.9	46.9	71.4	37.7
20	C	Casey Sanders	6-11/220	So.	1.8	1.2	0.0	50.0	64.7	0.0
13	G	J.D. Simpson	6-4/200	Fr.	0.4	0.2	0.2	20.0	100.0	20.0
12	F	Andre Sweet	6-6/200	Fr.	Could provide depth missing last season.					
22	G	Jason Williams*	6-2/190	So.	14.5	4.2	6.5	41.9	68.5	35.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	Fg%	Ft%	3%
F	Chris Carrawell*	6-6/215	16.9	6.1	3.2	48.6	77.8	37.7

2. Maryland

NATIONAL RANK

5

Schedule

N20-22 Maui Invitational
N28 Wisconsin
D2-3 BB&T Classic
D6 Stony Brook
D9 at Pennsylvania
D13 Maryland-Balt. Cty.
D23 Norfolk State
D27 Chicago State
D30 Md.-Eastern Shore
J2 at Clemson
J6 Georgia Tech
J10 North Carolina
J14 at Florida State
J17 Wake Forest
J21 at N.C. State
J27 Duke
J31 at Virginia
F4 Clemson
F6 at Georgia Tech
F10 at North Carolina
F14 Florida State
F17 at Wake Forest
F20 N.C. State
F24 Oklahoma
F27 at Duke
M3 Virginia

FRONTCOURT: One reason Terence Morris dropped from first team All-ACC as a sophomore to second team as a junior was the play of frontcourt mate Lonny Baxter. Few people view Baxter as a leaper, but he was second in the ACC in rebounding (8.8 per game) and second in blocked shots with 79. He did not attempt a 3-point shot, a reflection of the discipline that enabled him to finish second in the ACC in field-goal percentage (.533). Morris, a preseason choice for ACC player of the year a season ago, can go through stretches when nobody notices him, but he also can take over a game when needed. Danny Miller was a complementary player in his first year as a starter but has an all-around game that would enable him to play point guard if needed. Miller has not been the shooter that some had expected when he signed, but that could come. In 7-0 Mike Mardesich and 6-10 Tahj Holden, the Terrapins have a pair of quality frontcourt subs who played in every game last year. Teams have to respect Mardesich's size, and Holden can stretch defenses with his outside shooting.

BACKCOURT: There are few better guard tandems in college basketball than Juan Dixon, a first-team All-ACC selection last year as a sophomore, and Steve Blake, a

first-team ACC All-Freshman selection. Dixon has a reputation as a shooter, but he was more of a scorer last year, when only 49 of his 234 field goals were 3-pointers. Moreover, he's a 79 percent free-throw shooter who got to the line 143 times. Blake, one of three ACC players with more than 200 assists last season, feels no obligation to shoot. But, just when opponents decide they can ignore him, he isn't hesitant to fire from behind the arc. However, he needs to improve his free-throw shooting (.686 percent). Dixon and Blake ranked first and fourth, respectively, in the league in steals last year, and Blake has put the defensive clamps on some of the most offensive point guards in the ACC. There's a clear dropoff to third guard Drew Nicholas, who made 31 3-pointers last year but is not a proven ballhandler. If anything happens to Dixon and Blake, Miller would be an option here.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Terrapins broke some hearts in North Carolina when they were able to persuade 6-10 power forward Chris Wilcox to leave Raleigh, N.C. There was a more pressing need for backcourt depth, but Wilcox has a chance to become an impact player by the end of his career.

STRATEGY: Maryland seemingly had everything last season: shooting, rebounding, ballhandling, quickness, experience. The Terrapins even did something that nobody had done in 46 games—they beat Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium. For the second year in a row, however, Maryland was a bust in the postseason. Although the Terrapins made the ACC championship game for the first time in coach Gary Williams' 11 seasons, they were a second-round loser in the NCAA Tournament and haven't made a regional final since 1975. Granted, they ran into a hot UCLA team, but the Bruins didn't distinguish themselves thereafter. Plus, nobody should have beaten Maryland by 35 points. If they can't go any further this season, the Terps will be a disappointment, no matter how many games they win in the regular season. That's where Morris comes in. If he treats this season as a mission—which hasn't been his style—his teammates just might follow.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

WHO'S THAT? Baxter burst on the ACC scene a year ago, leading the league in blocked shots, finishing second in rebounding and receiving a spot on the All-ACC first team.

Terrapins

Coach: Gary Williams (217-128, 11 years; 424-256 overall, 22 years; 13-10 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 25-10. ACC: 11-5/2nd. Lost to UCLA in NCAA Midwest second round.

Last league title: 1995 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.

Site: College Park, Md.

Website: www.umterps.com

Home court: Cole Field House (14,500).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
35	F/C	Lonny Baxter*	6-8/250	Jr.	15.6	8.8	0.9	53.3	59.4	0.0
25	G	Steve Blake*	6-3/175	So.	7.0	3.0	6.2	40.8	68.6	36.3
21	F	LaRon McCall	6-7/223	Sr.	1.5	1.4	0.0	39.1	42.9	0.0
3	G	Juan Dixon*	6-3/152	Jr.	18.0	5.5	3.6	46.2	79.0	36.3
45	F	Tahj Holden	6-10/235	So.	3.3	2.0	1.0	43.2	67.2	47.4
33	G	Mike Mardesich	7-0/255	Sr.	2.7	2.9	0.5	42.6	62.5	0.0
11	G/F	Calvin McCall	6-3/189	So.	1.1	0.8	0.8	22.7	57.1	0.0
15	G/F	Danny Miller*	6-8/205	Jr.	8.5	2.9	2.7	44.9	65.4	35.8
44	F	Terence Morris*	6-9/205	Sr.	15.8	8.6	2.4	49.3	76.1	36.5
31	G/F	Byron Mouton	6-6/215	Jr.	Leading scorer at Tulane before transferring.					
12	G	Drew Nicholas	6-3/165	So.	5.1	1.1	1.4	42.1	62.1	33.7
40	C	Matt Slaninka	7-4/240	Fr.	Needs work, has year to learn from Mardesich.					
54	F/C	Chris Wilcox	6-10/220	Fr.	A top 25 recruit in the Class of 2000.					

Key Losses

None.

3. North Carolina

NATIONAL RANK

11

Schedule

N10-11 NABC Classic
 N17 at Appalachian St.
 N23 Fresno State*
 N29 at Michigan State
 D2 Kentucky
 D4 Miami (Fla.)
 D9 Texas A&M**
 D17 Buffalo
 D23 at UCLA
 D29-30 Food Lion MVP Cl.
 J2 at Georgia Tech
 J6 Wake Forest
 J10 at Maryland
 J13 Marquette
 J17 Clemson
 J20 at Florida State
 J24 Virginia
 J28 at N.C. State
 F1 at Duke
 F3 Georgia Tech
 F6 at Wake Forest
 F10 Maryland
 F18 at Clemson
 F22 Florida State
 F25 at Virginia
 F28 N.C. State
 M4 Duke
 *Springfield, Mass.
 **Houston

FRONTCOURT: Brendan Haywood is destined to be the kind of player who will never make everybody happy. That's a way of life for players who are 7-0 and 264 pounds. Under former coach Bill Guthridge, who had a reputation for developing big men, Haywood showed improvement every year and last season broke an ACC record by shooting 69.7 percent from the field (73.3 percent in conference games). The challenge for new coach Matt Doherty is getting Haywood to shoot a similar percentage while attempting more than the 7.6 field goals per game he had last year. Haywood will be joined by a pair of proven commodities in Jason Capel and Kris Lang, although Lang played better as a freshman than he did during an injury-plagued sophomore year. Capel, on the other hand, underwent back surgery between his freshman and sophomore years and looked like a new man. Capel has the required shooting and ballhandling skills for a small forward, and his 6.8 rebounds per game ranked second behind team-leader Haywood's 7.5. The Tar Heels would not have made the Final Four without the contributions of football player Julius Peppers (who will rejoin the team after football season), and this year they regain the services of 6-10 Brian Bersticker, who played in all 34 games two seasons ago, then was successful in winning a hardship appeal after injuries limited him to five games last year.

BACKCOURT: Shooting guard Joseph Forte surpassed all expectations when he was named ACC Rookie of the Year and became the first freshman ever to lead North Carolina in scoring. He is not just a shooter, witness his 94 assists and 5.5 rebounding average. However, it helped to have one of the ACC's all-time assist men, Ed Cota, by his side. A lot of Carolina's success this year will hinge on its ability to find a successor for Cota at the point position. Potential replacements include holdovers Ronald Curry and Jon Holmes as well as signees Adam Boone and Brian Morrison. It should be interesting because Curry, who missed the '98-99 season after Achilles' tendon surgery, has other obligations as the starting quarterback for the football team. Holmes received negligible playing time last year as a freshman, so it's likely Carolina will start one of the freshman. Morrison was higher-rated but Boone is considered the more natural point guard.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Heels learned in mid-August that the SAT score of 6-8, 250-pound forward Jason Parker had been called into question and he would not be enrolling at UNC. Parker was the marquee signee and would have added some much-needed depth to the frontcourt. Morrison won't beat out Forte but is the most likely future All-ACC player among signees.

STRATEGY: With the departure of Cota, Carolina is not an obvious Final Four contender. Then again, nobody thought the Tar Heels were Final Four material last year until they got there. Carolina trailed at the half in 19 games, the same as ACC bottom feeders Florida State and Clemson. Moreover, the Tar Heels had a 9-7 conference record; another 9-7 ACC team, Virginia, beat the Tar Heels twice and did not make the NCAA field. The Tar Heels didn't always play with a lot of fire under Guthridge; Doherty is much younger and, at least outwardly, more energetic.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

MICHAEL WHO? Forte may be only the latest in a long line of North Carolina stars, but he became the first to lead the Tar Heels in scoring as a freshman.

DATA

Tar Heels

Coach: Matt Doherty (first year; 22-15 overall, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 22-14. ACC: 9-7/3rd. Lost to Florida in NCAA national semifinal.

Last league title: 1995 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1974.

Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.

Website: www.tarheelblue.com

Home court: Smith Center (21,573).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
50	F/C	Brian Bersticker	6-10/232	Jr.	5.0	2.8	0.2	70.6	33.3	0.0
31	G	Adam Boone	6-2/182	Fr.	He and Morrison candidates to replace Cota.					
11	G/F	Michael Brooker	6-6/219	Sr.	0.9	0.5	0.1	19.2	33.3	19.0
25	F/G	Jason Capel*	6-8/224	Jr.	12.3	6.8	2.5	44.3	82.9	38.0
22	G	Ronald Curry	6-2/200	So.	Missed football & hoops with torn Achilles.					
13	C	Neil Fingleton	7-6/295	Fr.	Top 50 prospect is originally from England.					
40	G	Joseph Forte*	6-4/185	So.	16.7	5.5	2.6	45.9	75.2	35.9
00	C	Brendan Haywood*	7-0/264	Sr.	13.6	7.5	1.0	69.7	60.2	0.0
44	F	Will Johnson	6-8/211	So.	0.4	0.8	0.0	20.0	75.0	0.0
42	F/C	Kris Lang*	6-11/243	Jr.	8.4	4.3	0.3	50.8	65.4	0.0
32	F	Orlando Melendez	6-8/200	Jr.	1.5	1.2	0.3	40.0	50.0	12.5
3	G	Brian Morrison	6-2/175	Fr.	Likely better fit at SG once Forte moves on.					
24	G/F	Max Owens	6-5/198	Sr.	7.4	1.3	0.8	49.0	81.0	37.0
45	F	Julius Peppers	6-6/280	So.	4.5	3.5	0.3	57.1	59.6	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Ed Cota*	6-2/202	10.1	4.4	8.1	44.3	65.4	36.7

4. Virginia

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N17 Long Island
N20 Coastal Carolina
N24 at Virginia Tech
N29 Purdue
D4 at VMI
D6 Ohio University
D19 Tennessee*
D23 Maryland-Balt.Cty.
D28 Bucknell
D30 at Dartmouth
J2 at Wake Forest
J6 N.C. State
J9 Georgia Tech
J13 at Duke
J16 Florida State
J20 Missouri
J24 at North Carolina
J27 at Clemson
J31 Maryland
F3 Wake Forest
F7 at N.C. State
F11 at Georgia Tech
F14 Duke
F17 at Florida State
F25 North Carolina
F28 Clemson
M3 at Maryland
*East Rutherford, N.J.

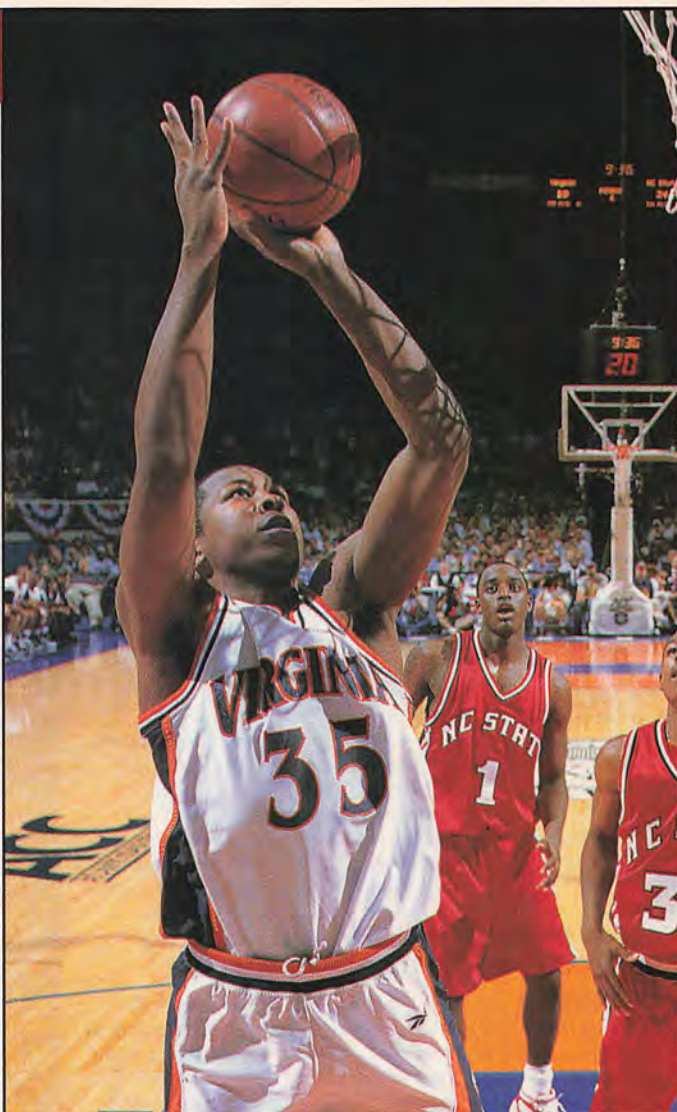
FRONTCOURT: Few people would have predicted before last season that Virginia would have won 19 games with a 6-7, 255-pound freshman, Travis Watson, as its starting center. The Cavaliers hope they can give Watson some relief this season, but they will be without former starting center and ACC All-Freshman selection Colin Ducharme, who transferred to Division II Longwood College for his fifth season. The Cavaliers were last in the ACC in rebounding last year, and that could be a problem again with a natural power forward (Watson) at center and a natural small forward (Chris Williams) at power forward. Williams, a former ACC Rookie of the Year, was named second-team All-ACC last season. The third frontcourt starter is Adam Hall, a human highlight film who has scored in double figures in back-to-back seasons and may be the ACC's most underrated defensive player. Stephane Dondon took more than half a season to make the adjustment from junior college to the ACC but has plenty of skills and should see more regular minutes with Ducharme's departure. The same goes for 6-10 Jason Rogers, a former state player of the year. Rogers, Virginia's tallest player, played only 37 minutes last season after rejecting the opportunity to be redshirted.

BACKCOURT: Few players in college basketball have a quicker first step than point guard Donald Hand, but all that does sometimes is get Hand in trouble when he

tries to challenge taller players in the paint. Although he struggled with his shot for the latter half of last season, Hand can be unstoppable when he's on. Roger Mason is the likely starter at shooting guard after a respectable freshman year, although coach Pete Gillen will give Mason time at point guard in the absence of Majestic Mapp. Mapp, who was sixth on the team in minutes last year as the backup point guard, suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in a pickup game August 2. His rehabilitation was expected to last 4-6 months after reconstructive surgery in late August. Mapp may be redshirted, which won't necessarily cripple a team that is looking for ways to get 3-point specialist Keith Friel on the floor. Friel played sparingly last season but shot better than 40 percent on 3-pointers (45-of-109) and missed only three of 30 free throws all season. Walk-on Josh Hare, who played more than 20 minutes per game two years ago, is a tenacious defender.

KEY NEWCOMER: Maurice Young, an all-metro choice in the Washington, D.C., area, has been described as a throwback who is not spectacular in any area but does all things well. At 6-5, Young can rebound in traffic and has a knack for scoring. He committed to Virginia so early—less than a month after his junior year—that he often was overlooked among the region's top prospects.

STRATEGY: No ACC team pushes the action more than the Cavaliers, whose pressing style enabled them to rank among the league leaders in turnover margin but near the bottom in field-goal percentage defense. But UVA's style shouldn't prevent it from rebounding the basketball. The rebounding should improve when the Cavaliers get taller players. Until then, Virginia has enough skilled offensive players and enough depth to reach the NCAA Tournament after last season's snub. As Hand goes, however, so go the Cavaliers. Virginia can't afford to have Hand and Williams both slumping at the end of the season again.



REMARKABLE EFFORT: Watson, 6-7, did a terrific job for Virginia as an undersized center, averaging 11.4 points and 8.3 rebounds as a freshman.

Cavaliers

Coach: Pete Gillen (33-28, 2 years; 307-156 overall, 15 years; 8-8 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-12. ACC: 9-7/T3rd. Lost to Georgetown in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1995 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Charlottesville, Va.

Home court: University Hall (8,394).

Website: www.virginiaspports.com

*1999-2000 starter		Highlighted names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%
4	F	Stephane Dondon	6-8/240	Sr.	3.4	2.9	0.4	37.4	72.3
5	G	Jason Dowling	6-2/198	Jr.	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	50.0
12	G	Keith Friel	6-4/190	Sr.	5.8	0.9	0.5	40.9	90.0
31	F/G	Adam Hall*	6-5/195	Jr.	10.1	4.8	1.4	50.9	51.1
13	G	Donald Hand*	5-11/182	Sr.	15.0	2.6	4.3	37.8	74.9
22	G	Josh Hare	6-2/200	Sr.	1.1	0.8	0.1	46.7	50.0
15	G	Greg Lyons	6-4/178	Sr.	Walk-on returns after not playing '99-00.				
11	G	Majestic Mapp	6-2/180	So.	5.3	0.9	2.2	33.5	60.4
21	G	Roger Mason	6-5/202	So.	7.6	2.2	1.3	43.0	81.8
32	F	J.C. Mathis	6-9/230	Fr.	Versatile inside/out player has to contribute				
30	C/F	Jason Rogers	6-10/225	So.	1.7	0.8	0.1	62.5	50.0
35	F/C	Travis Watson*	6-7/255	So.	11.4	8.3	0.8	53.5	56.1
33	F	Chris Williams*	6-7/205	Jr.	15.5	6.1	1.9	50.7	69.7
23	F/G	Maurice Young	6-5/195	Fr.	Has best chance of newcomers to impact team.				

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/G	Willie Dersch*	6-6/207	3.9	1.4	1.2	48.4	67.9	24.3

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

5. Wake Forest

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N16-17 BCA Classic
 N20 at Richmond
 N25 Campbell
 N28 at Michigan
 D2 South Carolina State
 D7 Kansas
 D16 Georgia
 D18 Radford
 D21 at Temple
 D29 Navy
 J2 Virginia
 J6 at North Carolina
 J9 Florida State
 J13 at Georgia Tech
 J17 at Maryland
 J21 Clemson
 J24 at Duke
 J27 at Cincinnati
 J31 NC State
 F3 at Virginia
 F6 North Carolina
 F10 at Florida State
 F14 Georgia Tech
 F17 Maryland
 F21 at Clemson
 F24 Duke
 M4 at N.C. State

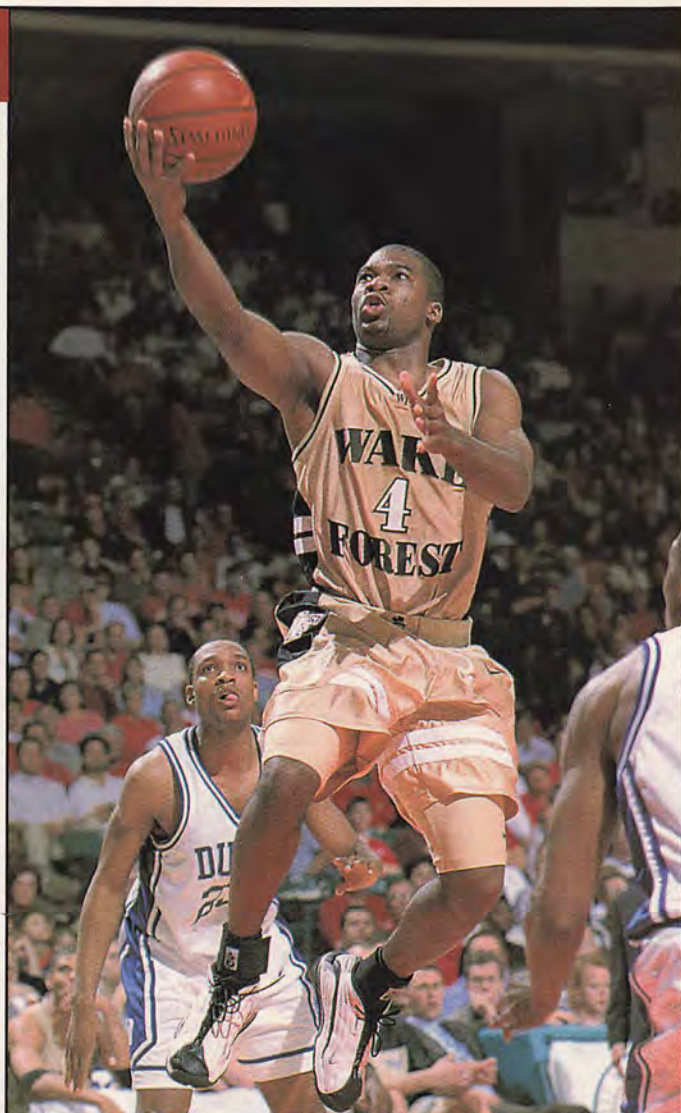
FRONTCOURT: Lithuanian import Darius Songaila emerged as one of the ACC's top young players last season, when he led the Deacons in scoring. He scored in double figures in the last 14 games and made 33 consecutive free throws during one period. Moreover, he attempted 188 free throws, the most of any ACC player. No ACC player committed more fouls (118) than Songaila, who fouled out of seven games, many of them when the Deacons needed him on the floor during a January swoon. Coach Dave Odom is more than willing to entrust the dirty work to Rafael Vidaurreta, who started all 36 games at center. Vidaurreta is limited offensively—at least he was last year, when he did not score more than 11 points in any game—but he led the team in rebounding for the second straight year. Josh Shoemaker started three games at power forward while Odom experimented with bringing Songaila off the bench, but Shoemaker gets most of his playing time in place of Vidaurreta. They're similar players. Another backup at the Nos. 4 and 5 spots, Antwan Scott, can provide offense. The small forward spot belongs to Josh Howard, who was more consistent as a freshman than many of the veterans. Howard is a slasher who doesn't hesitate to shoot the 3-pointer, but he has not yet proved he is a dangerous threat from

behind the arc (12-of-42). He can score, rebound and pass, and the team misses him when he's not on the floor.

BACKCOURT: It was February before the Deacons realized their best lineup did not have Robert O'Kelley at point guard. In fact, there was reason to wonder if O'Kelley's presence at either guard spot was a hindrance when he went through a 14-for-52 shooting slump late in the year. O'Kelley, however, came alive in the NIT, in which he was named MVP after leading the eventual champion in scoring in three of the last four games. The team could go a long way this year if O'Kelley regains his stroke, because Odom knows he can rely on Ervin Murray at the point. O'Kelley and Broderick Hicks are more point guard sized, but the team responded when Murray, who is 6-5, started 12 of the last 13 games. He had a 61-32 assist-turnover ratio for the season. Whether he sees time at guard or forward, Craig Dawson is instant offense off the bench. Dawson, Jerry Stackhouse's cousin, started only two games but scored in double figures 15 times.

KEY NEWCOMER: Odom was nearly at wits' end with his point guards when he took an in-season commitment from A.W. Hamilton, a point guard from Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia. The same school had sent Howard to Wake Forest one year earlier, and the Deacons know Hamilton will be more seasoned than most players straight out of high school.

STRATEGY: Odom knows what worked last season, when the Deacons won eight of their last nine games and captured the NIT. He is a tinkerer by nature, and it wouldn't be out of character for him to give O'Kelley some time at point guard because a five-some that includes Songaila, Howard and Dawson would have a lot of firepower. Odds are that O'Kelley will return to the form that enabled him to challenge for the ACC scoring championship in 1998-99. If he does, it would practically guarantee a return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since Tim Duncan's senior year in 1996-97.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

ON THE SPOT: The Deacons need a return to form by O'Kelley, who made partial amends for his subpar junior season by capturing MVP honors in the NIT.

DATA Demon Deacons

Coach: Dave Odom (221-121, 11 years; 259-163 overall, 14 years; 10-7 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 22-14. ACC: 7-9/5th. Beat Notre Dame in NIT final.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.

Website: www.wakeforestsports.com

Home court: Lawrence Joel Coliseum (14,407).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
42	G	Craig Dawson	6-5/206	Jr.	9.1	2.5	1.5	44.1	83.0	36.0
	G	A.W. Hamilton	6-3/175	Fr.	True PG is exactly what Wake needed.					
3	G	Broderick Hicks	6-1/177	Jr.	3.8	1.4	1.4	33.3	76.1	28.8
5	F	Josh Howard*	6-6/207	So.	9.2	4.7	1.8	46.8	58.3	28.6
31	G	Ervin Murray*	6-5/197	Jr.	3.3	2.1	1.8	50.6	73.3	35.0
4	G	Robert O'Kelley*	6-1/184	Sr.	13.0	2.0	2.4	35.5	63.5	29.9
	C	Dshamal Schoetz	7-0/255	Fr.	If adds boards, defense, it's a really good start.					
34	F	Antwan Scott	6-8/208	Jr.	4.7	2.5	0.2	45.9	75.0	40.0
44	C	Josh Shoemaker	6-9/237	Sr.	4.8	5.2	.9	53.9	59.3	25.0
25	F	Darius Songaila*	6-9/243	Jr.	13.7	5.5	1.2	51.1	83.5	0.0
41	C	Rafael Vidaurreta*	6-9/255	Sr.	4.9	6.9	0.8	41.1	51.4	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Niki Arinze	6-5/230	5.4	3.3	2.0	46.3	40.6	0.0

6. North Carolina State

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: Fifth-year senior Damon Thornton and fourth-year seniors Kenny Inge and Ron Kelley have a combined 216 starts during their Wolfpack careers. Last year, they were joined by freshman Damien Wilkins, the son of ex-NBA forward Gerald

Wilkins. Wilkins has the potential to become one of the ACC's best players. Although State lists Thornton as a forward, he has played center most of his career and is more comfortable in the low post than Kelley. Inge's attitude has been called into question at times, but he is a double-figure career scorer.

BACK COURT: The Wolfpack won't know how much they'll miss Justin Gainey, a starter for most of four seasons, until they see Archie Miller or Anthony Grundy at the point. Miller is a shooter and Grundy a scorer, but can either run an offense? If Grundy can do the job, he can team with prize freshman Scooter Sherrill in a high-powered backcourt. Grundy was a 59 percent free-throw shooter last season, so it's safe to say coach Herb Sendek will want Miller on the floor when the game is close.

KEY NEWCOMER: It was midsummer before the Wolfpack knew that Sherrill, a McDonald's and Parade All-American, had met the test score requirement for freshman eligibility. The Mt. Ulla, N.C., native acquitted himself well at the highest levels during summer camps and in All-Star games.

STRATEGY: A lineup of Grundy, Sherrill and Wilkins will enable the Wolfpack to run more than has been their custom under Sendek. Insert Miller and it will be a more controlled game. There's no guarantee State will make its first NCAA appearance of the Sendek era, but a fifth straight winning season is probable.

DATA

Wolfpack

Coach: Herb Sendek (73-28, 4 years; 136-84 overall, 7 years).
1999-2000 record: 20-14. ACC: 6-10/T6th. Lost to Penn State in NIT third-place game.
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Raleigh, N.C.
Home court: Entertainment and Sports Arena (19,722).
Website: www.GoPack.com

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter				
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG% FT% 3%
4	F	Michael Bell	6-9/200	Fr.	Lanky forward has skills, needs some strength.			
30	G	Clifford Crawford	6-3/185	So.	2.2	1.2	0.7	40.0 68.4 14.3
2	G	Anthony Grundy*	6-3/175	Jr.	12.5	4.6	2.8	40.0 58.8 31.4
24	G	Trey Guidry	6-2/175	Fr.	Has the range to boost team 3-point shooting.			
21	F	Kenny Inge*	6-8/230	Sr.	10.3	6.4	1.0	49.1 68.4 42.9
40	C	Ron Kelley	6-9/240	Sr.	8.1	4.0	0.6	46.3 54.5 0.0
54	F	Marcus Melvin	6-8/220	Fr.	Being eyed as a power forward type.			
11	G	Archie Miller	5-10/160	Jr.	4.7	1.0	1.6	32.6 80.0 36.2
23	G	Scooter Sherrill	6-3/185	Fr.	SG was McDonald's & Parade All-American.			
3	F	Damon Thornton*	6-8/240	Sr.	9.5	7.6	0.5	52.5 69.2 30.0
1	F	Damien Wilkins*	6-6/220	So.	11.4	5.8	2.3	40.8 66.7 32.6
33	C	Cornelius Williams	6-11/255	Sr.	0.8	0.9	0.0	29.4 73.3 0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Justin Gainey*	6-0/180	8.6	2.2	2.8	39.9	74.7	38.0
G/F	Marshall Williams	6-4/202	5.5	2.5	0.8	38.9	62.2	18.4

Schedule

N17-18 CoSIDA Classic	D9 at Georgia	J20 Maryland	F17 at Georgia Tech
N22 at Old Dominion	D16 New Hampshire	J24 at Florida State	F21 at Maryland
N25 Charleston Southern	D22 at Houston	J27 North Carolina	F24 Florida State
N29 Penn State	D30 Cal Poly-SLO	J31 at Wake Forest	F28 at North Carolina
D2 UNC-Asheville	J6 at Virginia	F3 Syracuse	M4 Wake Forest
D5 UNC-Greensboro	J10 Duke	F7 Virginia	
	J13 at Clemson	F10 at Duke	
	J17 Georgia Tech	F14 Clemson	

7. Georgia Tech

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: The first order of business for new coach Paul Hewitt was to persuade 6-11 center Alvin Jones to return for his senior year. He did. Jones frequently loses focus and is easily frustrated (witness his 99 turnovers last season), but he tied for the

ACC lead with 2.5 blocked shots per game. Jones can take over a game defensively. A healthy Jon Babul will provide toughness if he can avoid the injuries that limited him to 17 games last year. Clarence Moore continues to make the conversion to small forward after playing the post in high school.

BACK COURT: Although Tony Akins is the point guard and Shaun Fein the shooting guard, you wouldn't know it from their statistics. Fein was 68-of-186 on 3-pointers and Akins was 68-of-185. Akins had 108 assists, Fein 103. Neither Fein, Akins nor third guard T.J. Vines shot 40 percent from the field. As a team, the Yellow Jackets committed 53 more turnovers than assists, so improved ballhandling has to be a priority.

KEY NEWCOMER: Guard Marvin Lewis could become a cornerstone of a rebuilt Yellow Jackets program. He is unlikely to beat out Fein for the shooting guard spot, although this is a team that probably will use three guards frequently.

STRATEGY: Former coach Bobby Cremins often was criticized for the lack of a bench even during the good years, but Hewitt will have the same kind of team. Georgia Tech was 13-17 last year with 7-0 senior Jason Collier, one of the most productive players in the ACC, and neither Cremins nor Hewitt was able to sign any blue-chip big men. That will make it difficult for Hewitt to implement the up-tempo style he favors.

DATA

Yellow Jackets

Coach: Paul Hewitt (first year; 42-18 overall, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 13-17. ACC: 5-11/8th.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Atlanta.
Home court: Alexander Memorial Coliseum at McDonald's Center (10,000).
Website: www.ramblinwreck.com

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter				
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG% FT% 3%
3	G	Tony Akins*	5-11/182	Jr.	11.5	3.3	3.6	36.9 77.5 36.8
23	F	John Babul	6-7/232	Sr.	3.6	3.9	0.5	46.2 54.5 28.6
34	F	Robert Brooks	6-9/220	Fr.	Much more raw offensively than other newbies.			
24	G	Ross Chouest	5-11/186	Fr.	Redshirted during the 1999-2000 season.			
11	G	Shaun Fein*	6-3/205	Sr.	10.6	3.3	3.4	38.6 67.2 36.6
44	F	Michael Isenhour	6-8/248	Jr.	1.2	1.0	0.3	46.2 100.0 0.0
4	C	Alvin Jones*	6-11/265	Sr.	9.7	8.0	1.4	44.4 61.5 0.0
2	G	Darryl LaBarrie	6-3/196	Sr.	1.3	0.3	0.3	42.9 50.0 25.0
33	G/F	Halston Lane	6-6/200	Fr.	Honorable mention All-American by USA Today.			
12	G	Marvin Lewis	6-3/195	Fr.	Among top 50 preps nationally.			
42	F	Clarence Moore	6-4/225	So.	4.0	3.9	1.1	38.0 70.7 28.0
32	G	Kyle Perry	5-10/188	Sr.	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0 0.0 0.0
10	G	T.J. Vines	5-10/200	Sr.	4.4	1.8	2.3	33.1 62.1 29.9

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jason Collier*	7-0/260	17.0	9.2	1.6	47.3	73.5	36.9
G	Jason Floyd*	6-6/205	9.4	3.6	1.2	40.0	72.7	31.1

Schedule

N17 Wofford	D9 Kentucky	J13 Wake Forest	F14 at Wake Forest
N21 Charleston	D18-19 Stanford	J16 at N.C. State	F17 N.C. State
N24 Davidson	Invitational	J20 Duke	F21 at Duke
N28 at Iowa	D23 Morgan State	J24 at Clemson	F25 Clemson
D2 UCLA*	D28 Harvard	J27 Florida State	F28 at Florida State
D6 Georgia	J2 North Carolina	F3 at North Carolina	*Anaheim, Calif.
	J6 at Maryland	F6 Maryland	
	J9 at Virginia	F11 Virginia	

8. Clemson

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Adam Allenspach proved last season that he is an ACC-caliber center, capable of running the floor and possessing a shooting touch out to 10 feet. At 7-1, 265, Allenspach needs to become more of a banger, however. He had double-figure rebounds in six of 29 games and blocked only 13 shots all season. With Chucky Gilmore lost to a torn ACL, Ray Henderson must fill much of the need for a power player. The most glaring need is for a natural small forward. Last season's starter, senior Andrius Jurkunas, had 3-point range but couldn't guard anybody.

BACKCOURT: Will Solomon, originally recruited as a point guard, blossomed last year after moving to shooting guard. He was named first-team All-ACC after leading the conference in scoring. Then-freshman Edward Scott settled in at point guard after some early injury problems, though he had only a 69-53 assist-turnover ratio. In reserve guards Pasha Bains and Dustin Braddick, Clemson has a shooter and a slasher off the bench.

KEY NEWCOMER: Tony Stockman, a 6-1 guard from Medina, Ohio, has evoked comparisons to the Sacramento Kings' Jason Williams with his eye-catching play. If there is an area in which Clemson is most solid, it's the backcourt.

STRATEGY: Clemson was 4-14 after January 1 last season, and the prognosis isn't much better for this season. The Tigers should be competitive with Florida State and Georgia Tech, but there is a big gap between those three and the ACC's top six teams. Solomon and Allenspach were the only double-figure scorers on a Clemson team that was last in the ACC in scoring last year, and it is unclear where the points will come from this year.

DATA

Tigers

Coach: Larry Shyatt (30-35, 2 years; 49-44 overall, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-20. ACC: 4-12/9th.

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Clemson, S.C.

Website: www.clemsonigers.com

Home court: Littlejohn Coliseum (10,980).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
55	C	Adam Allenspach*	7-1/265	Sr.	11.6	7.2	0.8	45.4	74.0	0.0
33	G	Pasha Bains	6-3/205	So.	5.6	1.7	1.1	36.8	76.0	26.3
24	G	Dustin Braddick	6-5/215	Jr.	5.0	4.4	2.1	42.7	66.7	15.4
35	G/F	Dwon Clifton	6-4/195	Fr.	Has athleticism team has been lacking recently.					
21	F/C	Ray Henderson	6-8/250	So.	3.6	3.7	0.4	54.0	54.3	0.0
43	F	Chris Hobbs	6-7/250	Fr.	Recovering from torn ACL suffered as HS senior.					
20	G	Walker Holt	6-3/190	So.	1.4	1.0	0.7	40.0	83.3	33.3
15	G/F	Jamar McKnight	6-5/195	Jr.	Athletic JC transfer adds backcourt versatility.					
31	F	Tomas Nagys	6-8/235	So.	2.7	2.5	0.4	41.9	68.0	0.0
10	G	Edward Scott*	6-0/180	So.	6.3	3.3	2.8	31.2	70.8	32.6
1	G	Will Solomon*	6-1/185	Jr.	21.1	4.1	3.1	40.5	68.4	37.2
0	G	Tony Stockman	6-1/165	Fr.	Co-Mr. Basketball from state of Ohio.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Chucky Gilmore*	6-8/255	3.7	6.2	Junior lost for year with torn ACL.			
F	Andrius Jurkunas*	6-9/235	8.4	5.2	2.7	36.0	64.5	33.6

Schedule

N17 Hartford	D16 Wofford	J13 North Carolina State	F14 at North Carolina State
N21 Seton Hall	D20-22 Puerto Rico	J17 at North Carolina	F18 North Carolina
N25 The Citadel	D28 Charleston	J24 Georgia Tech	F21 Wake Forest
N28 Northwestern	Southern	J27 Virginia	F25 at Georgia Tech
D2 Western Carolina	D30 Coastal Carolina*	J31 at Florida State	F28 at Virginia
D5 Winthrop	J2 Maryland	F4 at Maryland	M3 Florida State
D9 at South Carolina	J7 at Duke	F7 Duke	*Myrtle Beach

9. Florida State

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: The Seminoles had two of the ACC's most athletic forwards last year in Ron Hale and Damous Anderson, their Nos. 1 and 2 scorers. Now, Hale and Anderson are gone, and FSU does not have a returning frontcourt player who scored as many as

five points per game. Antwan Dixon and Rodney Tucker played in all 29 games last season and have to be considered the front-runners at forward. The incumbent at center, 7-0, 245-pound David Anderson, did not come close to scoring in double figures in the last 27 games. His competition will come from Nigel "Big Jelly" Dixon (6-10, 350).

BACKCOURT: Point guard Delvon Arrington is the closest thing to a nationally recruited player among the FSU returnees. He will have difficulty approaching the 182 assists he had last year because he won't have Hale and Damous Anderson to finish, plus he'll have to carry more of the shooting load himself. Adrian Crawford, who made 64 3-point field goals in 1998-99, has made a strong recovery from the knee problems that caused him to miss the last 10 games of last season.

KEY NEWCOMER: Michael Joiner, a 6-7 forward from Fayetteville, N.C., was a recruiting target for most of the ACC until he signed with the Seminoles. His credentials indicate he will average 20 minutes or more, if he doesn't start.

STRATEGY: This is the least talented team Steve Robinson has had in his four seasons at Florida State, and it will be plagued by a lack of offensive punch and inexperience in a veteran ACC. Anderson has a chance to be a presence in the middle defensively, but the Seminoles won't get many easy baskets.

DATA

Seminole

Coach: Steve Robinson (43-48, 3 years; 89-66 overall, 5 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 12-17. ACC: 6-10/16th.

Last league title: 1991 (Metro).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Tallahassee, Fla.

Website: www.seminoles.com

Home court: Leon County Civic Center (12,500).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
50	C	David Anderson	7-0/245	Jr.	2.1	3.4	0.2	37.9	66.7	—
10	G	Delvon Arrington*	5-11/180	Sr.	8.9	4.2	6.3	36.8	70.9	38.2
	G	Matt Chlebek	6-0/175	Sr.	1.6	0.8	0.8	29.2	83.3	28.1
5	G	Adrian Crawford*	6-5/195	Sr.	5.3	1.4	0.9	31.9	61.5	27.1
30	G	Monte Cummings	6-4/180	Jr.	SG transferred from SE Iowa CC.					
4	G/F	Antwan Dixon	6-5/190	Jr.	4.7	3.3	0.9	40.4	76.3	35.3
34	F/C	Nigel Dixon	6-10/350	So.	1.8	2.1	0.0	42.6	41.7	—
1	F	Michael Joiner	6-7/215	Fr.	One of highest-rated preps to ever sign at FSU.					
12	G	Ryan Lowery	6-2/180	Fr.	Averaged 19 ppg as HS senior. Adds PG depth.					
33	F/C	Mike Mathews	6-10/230	So.	Redshirted in 1999-2000					
11	F	Rodney Tucker	6-8/215	So.	2.1	1.9	0.1	37.1	43.2	—
20	G/F	Andrew Wilson	6-6/205	Fr.	Averaged 17 points, 7 rebounds as HS senior.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Damous Anderson*	6-6/220	15.2	4.4	1.3	50.8	66.7	43.0
F/G	Ron Hale*	6-8/210	15.6	4.8	1.2	39.9	75.5	35.5
C	Oliver Simmons*	6-8/225	7.5	4.9	.6	47.2	.735	36.4

Schedule

N17 Florida	D19 at Cleveland State	J20 North Carolina	F22 at North Carolina
N22-25 Great Alaska Sh.	D21 Binghamton	J25 N.C. State	F25 at N.C. State
N29 Minnesota	D30 Morgan State	J27 at Georgia Tech	F28 Georgia Tech
D4 Furman	J4 Duke	J31 Clemson	M3 at Clemson
D7 South Florida	J6 UNC-Asheville	F4 at Duke	
D9 at Vanderbilt	J9 at Wake Forest	F10 Wake Forest	
D17 Jacksonville	J14 Maryland	F14 at Maryland	
	J16 at Virginia	F17 Virginia	

Pacific-10

ASCENDING: USC. Henry Bibby's program suffered from numerous transfers and key injuries in recent years, but he built a reputation as possibly the league's top game coach and a solid developer of talent. Now, his happy core of versatile players may be the Los Angeles team conference opponents fear most.

DESCENDING: Washington. The abrupt departure of capable point guard Senque

Carey for New Mexico last spring didn't help a program already suffering in the recruiting department. The Huskies also haven't been able to build on their '98 Sweet Sixteen appearance.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Eddie House, Arizona State. The numbers don't lie: House averaged 23 points per game and poured in an obscene 61 against California last season, but the numbers didn't reflect his ability to move off the ball and to get others involved. Tanner Shell and Jonathan Howard will get cracks at House's off-guard spot, but ASU is hoping talented sophomore Donnell Knight absorbs most of the scoring duties.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

David Bluthenthal, USC. The versatile Bluthenthal spent the summer of 1997 playing for the United States' entry in the Maccabiah Games in Israel, which lowered his presence on the summertime recruiting radar. But once he moved from small forward to fill in for injured Sam Clancy at power forward last season, grabbing 28 rebounds against Arizona State and scoring 26 points against Arizona two days later, it became clear what everyone had missed.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Dan Gadzuric, UCLA. Maybe his summer work at the well-respected camps of Pete Newell and Tim Grgurich will help. But Gadzuric, with a limited array of post moves and sus-

pect defense, has been nowhere close to the dominant player he was expected to be as a high-profile recruit in 1998.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Steve Lavin, UCLA. Just when you think he's toast, there he is, guiding the Bruins into another Sweet Sixteen with his unmistakable enthusiasm. But last year's finish was at least partly due to the release of JaRon Rush from the NCAA doghouse. And UCLA's regular-sea-

By **BRUCE PASCOE**

Arizona Daily Star

Predictions

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Arizona* | 7. California |
| 2. Stanford* | 8. Arizona State |
| 3. UCLA* | 9. Washington |
| 4. USC* | 10. Washington State |
| 5. Oregon State | *NCAA tourney pick |
| 6. Oregon | |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Gardner, Arizona	5-10	178	So.
G	Casey Jacobsen, Stanford	6-6	210	So.
F	Jason Kapono, UCLA	6-7	190	Jr.
F	Michael Wright, Arizona	6-7	238	Jr.
C	Loren Woods, Arizona	7-1	251	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Deaundra Tanner, Oregon State	6-2	202	Sr.
G	Gilbert Arenas, Arizona	6-3	191	So.
F	Sam Clancy, USC	6-7	240	Jr.
F	Brian Scalabrine, USC	6-9	250	Sr.
F	Sean Lampley, California	6-7	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

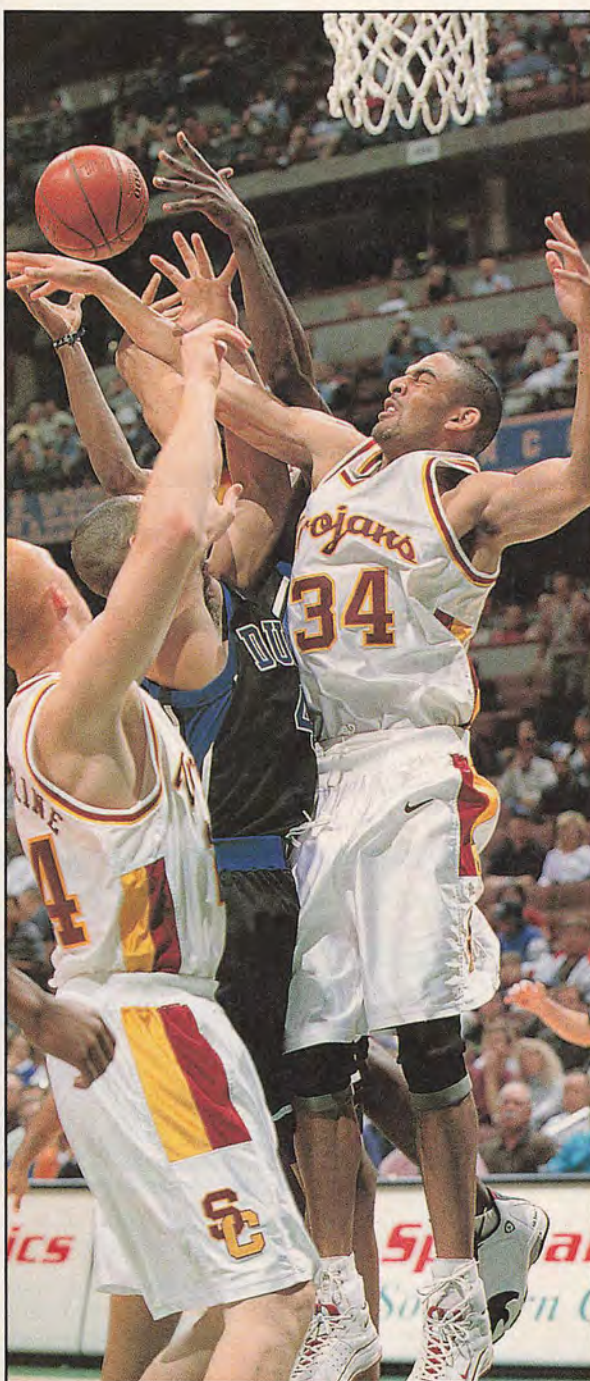
Loren Woods, C, Arizona

Newcomer of the Year

Philip Ricci, F, Oregon State

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Casey Jacobsen, Stanford
- Best rebounder:** Michael Wright, Arizona
- Best playmaker:** Jason Gardner, Arizona
- Best defender:** Loren Woods, Arizona
- Best leaper:** Jeff Trepagnier, USC
- Best under 6-0:** Jason Gardner, Arizona
- Best over 7-0:** Loren Woods, Arizona
- Most versatile:** Brian Scalabrine, Arizona
- Most flamboyant:** Richard Jefferson, Arizona
- Best NBA prospect:** Loren Woods, Arizona



TROJAN WORKHORSE: Bluthenthal not only was USC's top rebounder (8.3 rpg, third in the Pac-10), he was its top free-throw shooter and fourth-leading scorer.

son mood swings—including a 29-point loss at Arizona State last February—are grating on the ghosts of Westwood.

BEST BETS: The Pac-10 will finally succumb to pressure for a conference tournament, leaving only the Ivy League without one, but not before Stanford's Mike Montgomery and Arizona's Lute Olson get in a few final blasts against the event, which was canceled in its last incarnation in 1990. UCLA had been in alliance with Stanford and Arizona in keeping the league from reaching the required eight votes to reinstitute a tournament, but it broke down in the face of television money and a semi-favorable Staples Center location. School presidents were scheduled to make a final vote October 23. ... The most bitter rivalry this season won't be Arizona-UCLA, Stanford-Cal or Oregon-Oregon State. It will be between USC and ASU, which both have most of their players returning from a series of bad-blood incidents last season that culminated in ASU's Awvee Storey and USC's Jeff Trepagnier trading fists instead of handshakes after a game in Tempe last season. ... Washington's venerable Hec Edmundson Pavilion will be more intimate following a major renovation that forced the relocation of the Huskies to KeyArena last season, but the hottest house in the Northwest will be creaky Gill Coliseum in Corvallis, Ore., where the Beavers, led by first-year coach Ritchie McKay, will regain the home-court

edge they lost last season under Eddie Payne. ... A new scoreboard will greet fans at Cal's Haas Pavilion, but they will most appreciate not having to evacuate the building. An overly sensitive smoke alarm last season forced three evacuations—two from popcorn machines and one from a hot dog machine.

ODDS AND ENDS: Arizona State lost potentially the league's top recruit when guard Brandon Brooks' test score was rejected and his subsequent attempt fell short. ... Just two months after ASU's Rob Evans received a contract extension through 2005 worth \$583,500 a season, Olson, not about to be outdone, received a deal worth \$658,435 in each of the next five seasons. But Olson may not serve out the contract: He will turn 66 this fall and his wife, Bobbi, has been fighting ovarian cancer. ... The Pac-10 hired former Cal coach Lou Campanelli to replace Booker Turner as its coordinator of officiating. ... For the second straight year, Trepagnier took second place in the high jump at the Pac-10 track and field championships in the spring, clearing 7-1. ... Cal lost backup center Shahar Gordon to military duty in his native Israel after two years of successful appeals to delay it. ... Washington State is hoping again to borrow talented tight end Paul Mencke from the football team at midseason, after he helped in 18 games on the wing last season.



Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
Brian Scalabrino	USC	17.8
Sean Lampley	California	16.6
Jason Kapon	UCLA	16.0
Jeff Trepagnier	USC	15.9
Loren Woods	Arizona	15.6

Name	School	RPG
Michael Wright	Arizona	8.7
David Bluthenthal	USC	8.3
Awvee Storey	Arizona State	7.6
Loren Woods	Arizona	7.5
Sean Lampley	California	7.4

Name	School	APG
Brandon Granville	USC	8.3
Earl Watson	UCLA	5.9
Deaundra Tanner	Oregon State	5.1
Jason Gardner	Arizona	4.8
Michael McDonald	Stanford	4.6

Name	School	FG%
Michael Wright	Arizona	56.9
Dan Gadzuric	UCLA	56.5
Loren Woods	Arizona	53.8
Brian Scalabrino	USC	53.1
Jason Kapon	UCLA	51.9

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Arizona	15	3	27	7	16	1	11	6
Stanford	15	3	27	4	12	2	15	2
Oregon	13	5	22	8	11	3	11	5
UCLA	10	8	21	12	12	4	9	8
Arizona State	10	8	19	13	14	3	5	10
USC	9	9	16	14	10	3	6	11
California	7	11	18	15	11	7	7	8
Oregon State	5	13	13	16	9	6	4	10
Washington	5	13	10	20	4	9	6	11
Washington State	1	17	6	22	5	8	1	14

Ranking the Recruiting

1. Oregon: Pulled in quality help at four spots, led by the West's best point guard prospect in Luke Ridnour.
2. Washington State: L.A. star Tommy Johnson tops a deep class of mostly JC talent.
3. USC: Three could immediately help in the backcourt, particularly gunner Desmond Farmer.
4. Oregon State: The Beavers beat out Arizona for JC forward Philip Ricci, while adding frontcourt depth.
5. UCLA: Front line gets a blood-line boost from the sons of Terry Cummings and Marques Johnson.
6. Arizona: With no scholarships to give in the fall, the Wildcats managed to sign two potential sleepers in the spring.
7. Stanford: The Cardinal pulled in another top shooter with Matt Lottich.
8. Arizona State: It lost Brandon Brooks but found a shooter (Jonathan Howard) and front-court depth (Tyson Johnston).
9. Washington: The Huskies may have found a backcourt of the future in Tacoma natives Curtis Allen and C.J. Massingale.
10. California: After 1999's strong class, the Bears managed to add depth in the low post.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Arizona State	32	43.4	72.9	33.7	38.7	16.1	8.6	2.7	15.2	79.3
Stanford	31	46.8	70.9	40.0	42.2	17.2	4.6	5.3	14.6	78.9
USC	30	45.8	69.6	36.5	36.4	17.3	9.2	4.0	15.3	78.1
Arizona	34	45.7	73.0	32.2	38.4	15.8	7.5	5.7	15.0	76.4
Oregon	30	46.9	74.5	31.2	34.6	16.4	6.9	2.9	15.6	75.6
UCLA	33	48.0	58.7	37.1	37.9	16.5	8.6	4.4	16.6	75.5
California	33	44.1	68.2	34.1	35.6	14.2	7.1	2.7	14.9	72.0
Oregon State	29	44.5	65.6	36.1	34.8	15.4	7.6	2.8	16.5	69.6
Washington	30	41.2	66.2	34.2	35.1	13.3	6.6	3.9	16.6	66.0
Washington State	28	41.4	70.2	36.9	31.4	10.8	6.5	2.4	17.7	63.5

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Stanford	31	35.2	70.5	29.8	32.5	12.1	6.6	3.1	13.8	59.7
Arizona	34	40.0	69.4	34.0	35.7	13.9	6.6	2.8	16.9	67.2
Oregon	30	42.9	65.6	34.8	32.8	11.9	6.5	3.9	17.1	68.2
Oregon State	29	42.7	65.7	35.3	35.9	13.4	7.0	2.9	16.0	69.5
UCLA	33	42.6	68.4	33.2	34.2	14.2	6.9	2.8	16.3	70.3
California	33	43.6	71.6	37.1	34.7	15.9	6.1	3.2	16.0	70.9
USC	30	44.5	71.2	35.6	35.4	14.1	7.6	2.8	18.6	72.7
Washington	30	44.3	65.5	36.1	38.9	15.1	7.8	3.5	15.6	72.8
Washington State	28	48.0	66.6	35.7	34.6	15.3	6.5	4.0	15.3	73.1
Arizona State	32	45.5	69.2	34.2	35.7	14.5	6.0	4.6	19.2	74.8

1. Arizona

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N20-22 Maui Invitational
 N25 Purdue*
 N29 Gonzaga
 D2 St. Mary's
 D9 at Connecticut
 D16 Illinois**
 D20 Louisiana State
 D28-29 Bank One Fiesta Cl.
 J4 California
 J6 Stanford
 J11 at Washington State
 J13 at Washington
 J18 USC
 J20 UCLA
 J24 Arizona State
 J27 Texas
 F1 at Oregon
 F3 at Oregon State
 F8 Washington
 F10 Washington State
 F15 at UCLA
 F17 at USC
 F24 at Arizona State
 M1 Oregon State
 M3 Oregon
 M8 at Stanford
 M10 at California
 *Indianapolis
 **Chicago

FRONT COURT: Loren Woods missed the final month of last season with a back injury—one reason for the Wildcats' second-round NCAA Tournament exit—but it wasn't all bad for Arizona. Without the injury (a compressed disk that required two surgeries and healed slowly because of infection), Woods probably would have left for the NBA last summer. Now he returns to anchor a strong front line along with Michael Wright and Richard Jefferson. Wright proved himself as a freshman with tenacious rebounding and scoring ability, and he has gradually improved his mid-range jumper. Jefferson missed most of last season's league play with a broken foot and has been inconsistent throughout his career. But when he is on, the small forward can be unstoppable. He showed signs of increased dedication in the offseason. Arizona has an intriguing duo of inside reserves in Eugene Edgersen and Justin Wessel. Edgersen, who took last season off to complete his degree and concentrate on a student-teaching internship, brings rebounding and an infectious enthusiasm. Known for wearing afros, knee pads and 1980s sneakers, Edgersen proudly calls himself "old school." Nobody in the program knows Lute Olson's system better than Wessel, a converted small forward who became a serviceable center in Woods' absence last season. Luke Walton, one of Bill Walton's heady sons, is the primary backup to Jefferson at small forward.

BACK COURT: Point Guard U kept humming along with the transition to Jason Gardner last season. Gardner isn't tall, but he is strong, quick and mentally tough beyond his years, perhaps because of his upbringing in Indiana's demanding prep basketball scene. He also happens to be the Wildcats' top outside threat. Gardner's backcourt pal, Gilbert Arenas, came out of nowhere last season to earn the Preseason NIT's MVP award at age 17. He may well be in the NBA before age 20, with his uncanny slashing ability, improving jump shot, defensive ability and showmanship. The top backcourt reserve could be lanky Rick Anderson, a capable shooter at times who gets lost against more physical defenses. Other candidates are Lamont Frazier, an athletic, potentially strong defender who missed nearly all of last season when he was tested for a variety of illnesses and struggled in the classroom, and freshman Travis Hanour. Gardner didn't need a backup often last year, but it will most likely be Hanour or Frazier when he does this season.

KEY NEWCOMER: Arizona may have found another sleeper in Hanour, who initially committed to USC, then changed his mind after a strong senior season raised his profile. Hanour proved in high school he could play point guard. But he also may have enough ability to find minutes on the wing, where Arizona is desperate for more consistent shooting.

STRATEGY: Olson built his reputation by developing teams full of second-tier recruits into perennial national contenders. So what is he supposed to do with a starting lineup of five likely NBA players and a host of capable, role-playing reserves? The Wildcats can score from all over the floor, with consistent outside shooting their most glaring weakness, and they have plenty of leadership and experience. As a result, expectations can't get much higher. Assuming Woods remains healthy, anything short of a Final Four appearance for this bunch will be a disappointment.



ROBERT SEALE/TSN

WELCOME BACK: Perhaps no player in the Pac-10 means more to his team's fortunes than Woods, who briefly considered jumping to the NBA before deciding to return.

Wildcats

Coach: Lute Olson (422-127, 17 years; 614-219 overall, 27 years; 32-21 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1997).

1999-2000 record: 27-7. Pac-10: 13-5/T 1st. Lost to Wisconsin in NCAA West second round.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1984.

Site: Tucson, Ariz.

Website: www.arizcats.com

Home court: McKale Center (14,489)

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
35	F/G	Rick Anderson	6-8/221	Jr.	4.5	2.2	0.8	41.4	76.9	27.7
0	G	Gilbert Arenas*	6-3/191	So.	15.4	4.1	2.1	45.3	75.0	29.2
15	G	John Ash	5-10/177	Sr.	0.3	0.1	0.1	14.3	66.7	25.0
33	F	Eugene Edgersen	6-6/230	Sr.	Redshirted last season to complete degree.					
23	G	Lamont Frazier	6-3/182	Sr.	0.6	1.6	0.9	10.5	0.0	0.0
22	G	Jason Gardner*	5-10/178	So.	12.6	3.7	4.8	37.8	72.9	36.3
	G	Travis Hanour	6-6/205	Fr.	Can play all three perimeter positions.					
24	G	Russell Harris	5-11/165	So.	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
44	F	Richard Jefferson*	6-7/222	Jr.	11.0	4.4	2.8	50.3	71.4	42.5
	G	Jason Ranne	6-4/185	Fr.	Made team as a walk-on player.					
14	F	Mike Schwertley	6-5/214	Fr.	Son of NBA star Leonard "Truck" Robinson.					
4	F	Luke Walton	6-8/228	So.	5.7	4.1	3.9	35.3	71.2	20.0
30	F	Justin Wessel	6-8/235	Sr.	3.5	3.4	0.6	40.2	81.1	0.0
3	C	Loren Woods*	7-1/251	Sr.	15.6	7.5	1.5	53.8	75.8	0.0
21	F	Michael Wright*	6-7/238	Jr.	15.5	8.7	0.6	56.9	71.4	100.0
	F	Andrew Zahn	6-9/245	Fr.	Played two years with Nike national team.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
				None					

2. Stanford

NATIONAL RANK

4

Schedule

N19 San Francisco State
N23-25 Puerto Rico Shootout
N29 UC Riverside
D2 at Long Beach State
D18-19 Stanford Invitational
D21 Duke*
D29-30 Cable Car Classic
J4 at Arizona State
J6 at Arizona
J11 Oregon State
J13 Oregon
J17 California
J20 New Mexico
J25 at Washington
J27 at Washington State
F1 USC
F3 UCLA
F8 at Oregon
F10 at Oregon State
F17 at California
F22 Washington State
F24 Washington
M1 at USC
M3 at UCLA
M8 Arizona
M10 Arizona State
*Oakland, Calif.

FRONTCOURT: The unusual combination of intensity, muscle and intelligence lost in Mark "Mad Dog" Madsen might be nearly impossible for any team in the country to replace—except at Stanford, which began stocking up on big, physical and intelligent post players even before its 1998 Final Four appearance boosted recruiting leverage. This is a team, after all, that didn't blink when highly regarded center Jason Collins missed most of his first two seasons with injuries, threw a redshirt on well-regarded big man Justin Davis last season, and had trouble making time for shot-blocking whiz Curtis Borchardt once Madsen returned from an injury early last year. This season, Jason and twin brother Jarron, a power forward, frequently will anchor the post together, with Davis and Borchardt filling out the four-man rotation inside. Jason Collins will prove himself a strong rebounder and defender with the ability to score around the basket. Jarron Collins is a more versatile player who passes and handles the ball well. Borchardt blocked 42 shots in 20 games, while showing good offensive range for a big man, but missed the final 11 games with a stress fracture in his foot. Small forward and shooting guard are interchangeable at Stanford, but bigger forwards will likely be guarded by Ryan Mendez, with the more

mobile players covered by Casey Jacobsen.

BACKCOURT: It used to be that the Cardinal was a perennial contender with no true stars. That changed somewhat last season with the arrival of Jacobsen, a dynamic wing recruit who lived up to his reputation and earned the half-joking tag of "Golden Boy" from his teammates. Jacobsen is a confident, dependable outside shooter who does not shy away from the clutch shot or the spotlight. Mendez is another deadly shooter, with a career 42.8 percent mark on 3-pointers. If Kyle Logan, who suffered shoulder and knee injuries last season, is healthy he could add more athleticism on the wing. The Cardinal is still waiting for the talented Michael McDonald to provide the kind of explosiveness at point guard that Art Lee and Brevin Knight had, but there is plenty of depth. Hard-working Tony Giovacchini is a coaches' favorite and a steady passer, and athletic sophomore Julius Barnes could be one of the program's best point guards ever once he settles into the system.

KEY NEWCOMER: Davis won't have to be an immediate star with so many other capable big men around him, but he will become one soon anyway. Stanford coaches love his ability to run the floor, as well as his quickness to the ball and rebounding ability. Davis spent his redshirt year playing opposite Madsen in practice. If any of Madsen's intensity rubbed off on him, watch out.

STRATEGY: The Cardinal should be able to cover for the Mad Dog's absence on the floor, but it will miss his bark in the locker room. Stanford has three seniors—McDonald, Mendez and Jarron Collins—but all are relatively quiet. Jacobsen may be too young and too high profile to fully earn the respect of his teammates this season. Finding a leader may be the single biggest problem this team will have. Otherwise, the execution will be classic Stanford—best in the halfcourt, stifling on defense—but with even more quickness to take advantage of opportunities on the break. There is little doubt the Cardinal again will challenge for the league title and receive a high NCAA tournament seed.



PIVOTAL: How important is Jarron Collins to Stanford's success? The Cardinal is 28-2 when he scores in double figures, and 42-5 when he grabs five or more rebounds.

Cardinal

Coach: Mike Montgomery (288-143, 14 years; 442-220 overall, 21 years; 10-8 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 27-4. Pac-10: 15-3/T 1st. Lost to North Carolina in NCAA South second round.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.

Site: Palo Alto, Calif.

Website: www.gostanford.com

Home court: Maples Pavilion (7,391).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter				
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%
24	G	Julius Barnes	6-1/175	So.	2.4	0.9	1.4	36.0
14	G/F	Tyler Besecker	6-6/200	Fr.	Redshirted last season due to injuries.			
11	C	Curtis Borchardt	6-11/210	So.	3.6	3.7	0.6	38.3
31	F	Jarron Collins*	6-10/248	Sr.	11.0	6.5	1.7	48.5
34	C	Jason Collins	6-11/255	So.	8.3	6.1	0.7	62.2
22	F	Justin Davis	6-8/225	Fr.	Chose to redshirt last season.			
25	G	Tony Giovacchini	6-2/180	Jr.	2.9	1.1	1.5	35.5
23	G/F	Casey Jacobsen*	6-6/210	So.	14.5	3.0	2.3	46.6
F	F	Teyo Johnson	6-7/256	Fr.	Will also play football for the Cardinal.			
0	F	Joe Kirchofer	6-9/230	So.	1.3	1.2	0.1	43.5
3	G/F	Kyle Logan	6-5/202	So.	0.6	0.4	0.8	14.3
G	G	Matt Lottich	6-4/190	Fr.	Will also play baseball for the Cardinal.			
4	G	Michael McDonald*	6-1/170	Sr.	4.7	3.0	4.7	36.0
32	F/G	Ryan Mendez	6-7/210	Sr.	9.7	4.6	1.7	45.1
F/G	F	Nick Robinson	6-6/195	Fr.	Spent past two years on a Mormon mission.			

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Mark Madsen*	6-9/240	12.2	9.3	1.1	58.7	57.5	----
G	David Moseley*	6-4/200	13.0	3.5	2.4	45.8	87.5	44.9

3. UCLA

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N9-10 Coaches vs. Cancer Cl
N21 Cal State Northridge
N29 UC Santa Barbara
D2 Georgia Tech*
D9 Hawaii
D16 UC Irvine
D23 North Carolina
D30 at Purdue
J4 Washington
J6 Washington State
J11 USC
J13 Villanova
J18 at Arizona State
J20 at Arizona
J25 Oregon State
J27 Oregon
F1 at California
F3 at Stanford
F8 USC
F10 at DePaul
F15 Arizona
F17 Arizona State
F22 at Oregon
F24 Oregon
M1 California
M3 Stanford
M8 at Washington State
M10 at Washington
*Anaheim, Calif.

FRONTCOURT: The Bruins are without Jerome Moiso and JaRon Rush, who left to pursue their NBA dreams, but they still have Matt Barnes, who has thought about transferring or playing football but so far has done neither. The athletic Barnes will be counted on for help at both forward spots and center, allowing coach Steve Lavin the freedom to tinker with all sorts of lineups. Two recruits with impressive blood lines—T.J. Cummings, son of Terry, and Josiah Johnson, son of Marques—should be able to help. Cummings (6-9) may be best at small forward, where he can create matchup problems. But because of Moiso's departure, UCLA may need him at power forward most often, where he is somewhat undersized at 205 pounds. Johnson is more of a project, but he can shoot with some range. He also has the kind of good court sense you would expect from a son of an NBA player who posted a 3.8 grade-point average and 1,300 SAT score in high school. Wing forward might also be handled by versatile Jason Kapono or streak-shooting Billy Knight. Dan Gadzuric should be a dominant low-post player on both ends of the floor but hasn't gotten there yet. While he cut down on foul problems last season, he still has a limited array of post moves and is an average defender at best. Lingering knee problems are another issue with Gadzuric, though he managed to average more than 22 minutes last season by taking it easy during selected practices.

BACKCOURT: Earl Watson, who Lavin says is one of the league's most underrated players, is back for another year at point guard. Watson has improved his assist-to-turnover ratio and remains a decent outside threat, but his most valuable asset might be experience. Few players can draw on the kind of adversity the unpredictable Bruins have experienced during his tenure. Watson should be the team's outright leader, but Kapono has a more domineering personality. The Bruins can go with a smaller lineup if Ryan Bailey handles the point, but he struggled in that role late last season. At off-guard, Kapono presents a difficult matchup, able to score in any number of ways. Knight will also get some minutes there, but Ray Young could ultimately win the spot outright if he can add more consistent scoring to his impressive defense.

KEY NEWCOMER: With Moiso's departure, Cummings went from a role player as a freshman to a major frontcourt component. If he can hold his own physically at power forward, the Bruins can hurt opponents with big wing players. At small forward, he is a big target to guard, with a good jump hook and respectable long-range jumper. His versatility, and Lavin's propensity to juggle lineups, ensure he will have an impact right away.

STRATEGY: The Bruins looked as though they might be more of a halfcourt team last season, with Moiso and Gadzuric inside, but they still, at times, free-lanced on offense. This season, UCLA may be best on the run, though there are enough creators, led by Kapono, to make things happen in the halfcourt sets. Defenses will include man-to-man and matchup zones. With the Bruins' depth getting thinner, the team won't have enough to challenge for the league title. But UCLA still has an impressive core of five or six players, and it would be a mistake to assume the Bruins won't surface again when NCAA Tournament time rolls around.



VARIETY SHOW: Kapono, who shared Pac-10 Freshman of the Year honors, has made a smooth adjustment to the college game and has shown he can score in a number of ways.

DATA

Bruins

Coach: Steve Lavin (91-38, 5 years; 7-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 21-12. Pac-10: 10-8/T 4th. Lost to Iowa State in NCAA Midwest semifinal.
Last league title: 1997.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1988.
Site: Los Angeles
Website: www.uclabruins.com
Home court: Pauley Pavilion (12,800).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
21	G	Ryan Bailey*	6-2/207	Sr.	3.2	1.8	2.4	39.2	61.3	30.0
23	F	Matt Barnes	6-7/230	Jr.	5.6	2.6	1.0	47.1	48.8	15.6
44	F	Brandon Brooks	6-6/225	So.	0.4	0.8	0.1	16.7	50.0	----
	F	T.J. Cummings	6-9/205	Fr.	Son of NBA star Terry Cummings.					
	G	Jason Flowers	6-1/185	Sr.	Sat out season after transfer from UC Irvine.					
50	C	Dan Gadzuric*	6-11/248	Jr.	9.7	7.0	0.7	56.5	38.6	----
22	G	Rico Hines	6-4/217	Sr.	3.4	2.1	1.1	44.3	63.9	20.8
	C	John Hoffart	6-10/255	So.	Transferred from Cal Poly-SLO.					
	F	Josiah Johnson	6-8/200	Fr.	Son of former NBA star Marques Johnson.					
24	F	Jason Kapono*	6-7/199	So.	16.0	4.4	1.9	51.9	68.4	47.4
3	G/F	Billy Knight	6-5/210	Jr.	5.2	2.0	0.7	45.3	65.6	39.7
	G	Ryan Mollins	6-5/180	Fr.	Made the team as a walk-on player.					
11	G/F	Todd Ramasar	6-5/204	Jr.	Missed last season after shoulder surgery.					
	G	Ryan Walcott	6-2/175	Fr.	Won Arizona state title as high school senior.					
25	G	Earl Watson*	6-1/190	Sr.	11.4	3.9	5.9	45.1	64.9	36.0
34	G	Ray Young	6-3/210	Jr.	5.8	2.4	1.3	36.8	58.7	31.5
Key Losses										
Pos.	Name		Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%	
F/C	Jerome Moiso*		6-10/235	13.0	7.6	1.2	50.1	61.3	16.7	
F	JaRon Rush		6-7/207	12.1	5.7	1.2	55.8	73.3	38.7	

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

PACIFIC-10

4. Southern California

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N25 Loyola Marymount
D2 Utah*
D9 at UC Santa Barbara
D14 Pepperdine
D21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic
D27 at Northwestern
D30 Long Beach State
J4 Washington State
J6 Washington
J11 at UCLA
J18 at Arizona
J20 at Arizona State
J25 Oregon
J27 Oregon State
F1 at Stanford
F3 at California
F8 UCLA
F15 Arizona State
F17 Arizona
F22 at Oregon State
F24 at Oregon
M1 Stanford
M3 California
M8 at Washington
M10 at Washington State
*Anaheim, Calif.

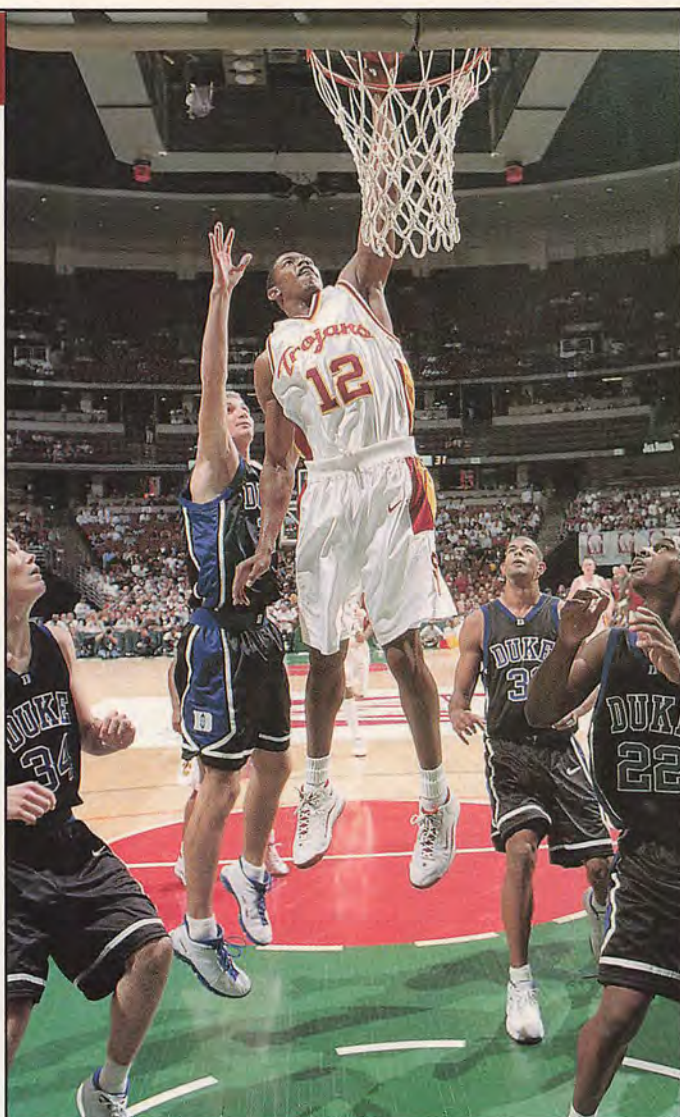
FRONT COURT: So what if the Pac-10's biggest names aren't there? This versatile bunch will create matchup nightmares for every team in the league. Power forward Brian Scalabrine can muscle inside, drill 3-pointers, execute a slick drop-step and defend big men well. While Scalabrine (6-9) is the Trojans' tallest regular, Sam Clancy (6-7) will spend the most time at center. Clancy might have been an all-league pick last season had a fracture in his right foot not derailed him early in conference play. At the time of his injury, he was second in the league in rebounds. He is a fearless scorer up to mid-range, and creates most of his own scoring opportunities. USC's offense more often will set up Scalabrine and small forward David Bluthenthal, who in January broke out with 28 rebounds against Arizona State, then pumped in 26 points against a befuddled Arizona team two days later. Bluthenthal accomplished much of his damage at power forward in Clancy's absence. Now he is back at small forward, where he is quick enough to break down defenders on the wing and big enough to shoot over them. The only major problem here is depth: Big men Kostas Charissis and Luke Minor are still projects.

BACK COURT: In a conference that is perennially loaded with top-rate point guards, Brandon Granville tends to get lost. But he earned plenty of respect for his playmaking, defense, shooting and stamina last season while almost single-handedly manning the point. This season, he'll get breathers more often—and some competition for playing time—from JC transfer Robert Hutchinson. Like Granville, Hutchinson is a good playmaker who can keep defenses honest with his outside shooting.

Shooting guard Jeff Trepagnier grew tired of his reputation as a phenomenal athlete who couldn't shoot, so he did something about it. Last year, he finished 10th in the league in 3-point percentage, proving he can score from anywhere on the floor. Newcomers Gennaro Busterna, who can play any position from point to small forward, and Desmon Farmer, add more shooting from the wing, as does sophomore Nate Hair.

KEY NEWCOMER: A lack of depth kept USC from challenging for the league title last season. Clancy and forward Jarvis Turner suffered major injuries, the Trojans often used walk-ons in critical situations, and Scalabrine claimed he was flat-out pooped at mid-season. Farmer provides the kind of quality help that could make this season a much different story. USC coaches say he could be the school's most talented player since Harold Minor: a lefty scorer who can break down defenders at the shooting guard or small forward spots and allow USC to shift Bluthenthal to power forward when Clancy or Scalabrine rests.

STRATEGY: Coach Henry Bibby has always run effective NBA-style offenses and taken full advantage of players' versatility, but until he had plenty of minutes to pass around last season, his program suffered from instability. With five well-established starters, the Trojans shouldn't suffer from chemistry problems, but they will have to get used to wearing a larger bull's-eye on their chests this season. If USC can handle the pressure and stay healthy, there's no reason it can't challenge for the league title. Washington State coach Paul Graham says: "I'd take their starting five against anybody in the country."



AIR POWER: Trepagnier's 40-inch vertical leap has enabled him to excel as a high jumper on the USC track and field team. It also doesn't hurt on the court.

Trojans

Coach: Henry Bibby (57-57, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 16-14. Pac-10: 9-9/6th.

Last league title: 1985 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Los Angeles

Website: www.usctrojans.com

Home court: Sports Arena (15,509).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter				
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG% FT% 3%
34	F	David Bluthenthal*	6-7/220	Jr.	13.9	8.3	1.1	47.8 84.1 36.7
	G	Gennaro Busterna	6-3/205	Jr.	Transferred from McCook (Neb.) JC.			
15	C	Kostas Charissis	6-11/250	So.	1.5	2.1	0.6	32.7 33.3 ----
50	F	Sam Clancy*	6-7/240	Jr.	15.5	6.9	1.7	49.4 59.7 0.0
	G	Desmon Farmer	6-4/225	Fr.	Averaged 23 ppg as high school senior.			
5	G	Brandon Granville*	5-9/175	Jr.	13.1	2.3	8.3	38.1 78.6 33.9
1	G	Nate Hair	6-3/200	So.	4.2	1.8	0.6	39.1 52.0 40.3
	G	Robert Hutchinson	6-1/195	So.	Transferred from Okaloosa-Walton (Fla.) JC.			
30	C	Luke Minor	7-3/320	Fr.	Is recovering from foot surgery last year.			
24	F/C	Brian Scalabrine*	6-9/250	Sr.	17.8	6.0	2.8	53.1 71.5 40.3
12	G	Jeff Trepagnier*	6-4/195	Sr.	15.9	6.6	2.1	48.8 66.0 38.0
21	F	Jarvis Turner	6-8/230	Sr.	Injury ended '99-00 season after seven games.			

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
			None					

5. Oregon State

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: A series of injuries and illnesses kept center Jason Heide off track last season. If he is healthy this year, the Beavers could have a formidable trio in Heide, Brian Jackson and newcomer Philip Ricci. Ricci and Jackson are strong players around the

basket who can extend defenders to the perimeter. James Jones is a versatile forward who should fit in well off the bench.

BACK COURT: By all accounts, point guard Deandra Tanner went through a miserable season last year. He talked about missing his son, who lives in Los Angeles, struggled academically and dropped off the coaches' all-Pac-10 team. But he still led the Beavers in scoring, steals, assists and 3-point percentage. So imagine how he might play under new coach Ritchie McKay, who has a reputation for working well with point guards, if the team takes some of the offensive pressure off him. Help should come from Josh Steinthal, Adam Masten and Jimmie Haywood.

KEY NEWCOMER: McKay may have pulled off the steal of the spring signing period when he landed JC forward Ricci. Now the Beavers can go big with Ricci at small forward or rotate Ricci, Jackson and Heide into the two post positions, with Steinthal, Haywood and Tanner providing perimeter punch.

STRATEGY: The Beavers have a strong inside-outside machine in place, and McKay may continue to use their deliberate, defensive style much of the time. But the Beavers have been abysmal outside of cozy Gill Coliseum in recent years, and their confidence plummeted at home last season after being drilled by Oregon there in the league opener. If McKay can keep their heads up, the Beavers should be able to at least reach the NIT.

DATA

Beavers

Coach: Ritchie McKay (first year; 61-52 overall, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 13-16. Pac-10: 5-13/T 8th.

Last league title: 1990 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Corvallis, Ore.

Home court: Gill Coliseum (10,400).

Website: www.osubeavers.com

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Mike Cokley	5-10/166	So.	0.8	0.0	0.5	50.0	----	50.0
5	F	Tim Euhus	6-6/223	So.	1.3	1.8	0.2	53.3	61.5	----
	G	O.J. Gulley	6-1/—	Fr.	Made the team as a walk-on player.					
1	G	Jimmie Haywood	6-2/165	So.	4.9	2.0	2.0	36.2	47.8	34.1
40	C	Jason Heide*	6-10/260	Sr.	10.7	5.0	1.2	49.5	67.4	0.0
3	F	Brian Jackson*	6-9/240	So.	12.5	5.1	0.8	44.1	70.7	31.8
2	G	Emonte Jernigan	6-3/190	So.	Spent one year at Santa Rosa (Calif.) JC.					
23	F	James Jones	6-5/220	Jr.	Redshirted last season due to knee injuries.					
44	C	Chris Manker	6-10/210	Fr.	Averaged 21 ppg as high school senior.					
32	G	Adam Masten	6-5/205	Jr.	4.5	2.1	1.8	38.2	61.8	30.2
24	C	Derek Potter	6-11/220	Fr.	Native of North Vancouver, British Columbia.					
31	F	Philip Ricci	6-8/225	Jr.	Named Calif. Junior College Player of Year.					
25	G	Josh Steinthal	6-4/201	Sr.	9.0	1.5	1.2	40.7	73.1	39.9
13	G	Deandra Tanner*	6-2/202	Sr.	14.2	3.8	5.1	41.2	78.2	41.1

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Clifton Jones*	6-8/225	8.3	5.7	1.2	63.6	51.7	----
G	Josiah Lake	6-1/194	2.5	1.7	0.9	37.0	64.0	23.1
G/F	Ramunas Petraitis*	6-4/225	4.9	3.0	1.7	44.8	61.5	31.3

Schedule

N17 Cal State Fullerton	D23 South Carolina St.	J25 at UCLA	F22 USC
N20 Southern Colorado	D28 LSU*	J27 at USC	F24 UCLA
N24-26 Big Island Invit.	J6 at Oregon	F1 Arizona State	M1 at Arizona
D2 at San Diego	J11 at Stanford	F3 Arizona	M3 at Arizona State
D9 UC Riverside	J13 at California	F8 California	M10 Oregon
D13 at Denver	J18 Washington State	F10 Stanford	*New Orleans
D16 Wyoming	J20 Washington	F15 at Washington	
		F17 at Washington State	

6. Oregon

NATIONAL RANK

66

FRONT COURT: More than most JC transfers, Julius Hicks has no time to waste. After starting out strong during the Ducks' soft non-conference schedule, he spent most of his junior season suffering from mononucleosis.

His ability and rebounding inside should complement the rugged play of center Flo Hartenstein. BYU transfer Mark Michaelis' shooting ability adds versatility inside, and Luke Jackson is a heady shooter who will contribute immediately from the wing in bigger lineups.

BACK COURT: The point guard duties are ready and waiting for highly skilled freshman Luke Ridnour. If he can't handle them right away, Anthony Norwood is capable enough to keep Oregon's frenetic break running. Norwood is a big combo guard with good instincts. Whatever happens at the point, there's no question Frederick Jones will be the main wing threat. He played tentatively and inconsistently early in his career but finished last season strong, scoring from all over the floor. Oregon should get some pure shooting from James Davis, defense from David Jackson and hustle from Ben Lindquist.

KEY NEWCOMER: Ridnour may be coach Ernie Kent's best recruit yet. He is a savvy, multidimensional point guard who possesses strong passing and shooting skills.

STRATEGY: The Ducks will be versatile because of their size but will probably be best again on the break. Inconsistency may be a problem, as there is plenty of talent on the team but not much of it is developed. So in a league loaded with returning players, the Ducks may have to settle for a second-division finish and a trip to the NIT before moving ahead next season.

DATA

Ducks

Coach: Ernie Kent (54-35, 3 years; 144-115 overall, 9 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 22-8. Pac-10: 13-5/3rd. Lost to Seton Hall in NCAA East first round.

Last league title: 1945 (Pac-10 North).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Eugene, Ore.

Home court: McArthur Court (9,087).

Website: www.goducks.com

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
55	C	Jay Anderson	6-9/220	Fr.	Was McDonald's All-America nominee.					
42	F	Bryan Bracey	6-7/210	Sr.	8.1	3.6	0.3	57.6	70.6	40.0
25	C	Chris Christoffersen	7-2/265	Jr.	3.0	1.4	0.1	71.4	46.2	----
1	G	James Davis	5-10/170	Fr.	May become program's best pure shooter.					
54	C	Flo Hartenstein*	6-9/260	Sr.	3.7	3.9	0.4	47.4	47.7	----
21	F/C	Julius Hicks	6-8/235	Sr.	4.4	3.3	0.5	57.0	60.8	----
3	G	David Jackson	6-3/205	Sr.	5.1	1.6	1.7	36.4	80.0	30.8
33	F	Luke Jackson	6-7/210	Fr.	Two-time Oregon state player of the year.					
20	G	Frederick Jones*	6-4/209	Jr.	9.7	3.9	3.3	40.2	76.5	27.1
24	G	Ben Lindquist	6-4/180	Jr.	2.6	1.4	1.0	33.9	83.3	31.0
50	F	Mark Michaelis	6-10/230	Jr.	Sat out season after transferring from BYU.					
34	G	Anthony Norwood	6-3/185	Jr.	3.6	1.4	1.3	50.6	81.3	40.0
13	G	Luke Ridnour	6-2/165	Fr.	A Parade and McDonald's All-America pick.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Alex Scales*	6-4/185	16.3	4.3	2.5	45.5	78.0	33.8
F	A.D. Smith*	6-8/233	15.3	5.8	1.9	52.4	83.5	27.3
G	Darius Wright*	6-0/179	9.8	3.0	4.7	85.6	85.6	30.7

Schedule

N17 Miss. Valley St.	D26 South Carolina St.	J25 at USC	F22 UCLA
N21 at Denver	D30 at Louisville	J27 at UCLA	F24 USC
N25 Portland State	J6 Oregon State	F1 Arizona	M1 at Arizona State
N28 Portland	J11 at California	F3 Arizona State	M3 at Arizona
D2 Massachusetts*	J13 at Stanford	F8 Stanford	M10 at Oregon State
D12 Illinois-Chicago	J18 Washington	F10 California	*Portland
D16 Auburn**	J20 Washington State	F15 at Washington State	**Las Vegas
		F17 at Washington	

7. California

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: So what is the most impressive part of forward Sean Lampley's game? His scoring average? Rebounding? Mid-range shooting ability? It probably is the 3.1 assists he averaged last season, showing an

unselfishness and an ability to find the right man when he was double-teamed. He'll have to do the same this season unless Cal's big post players can add more scoring. At center last season, Cal got mostly shot blocking and quickness from Solomon Hughes and toughness from Nick Vander Laan. Any combination of two big men on the floor at one time will allow Lampley to play small forward, where he is most effective.

BACKCOURT: Shantay Legans has won the point guard spot from Donte Smith with excellent passing and the ability to push the ball, while Smith has shown enough shooting ability to play both guard spots. On the wings, Brian Wethers is physical and mobile, Dennis Gates is the best defender and former walk-on Ryan Forehan-Kelly is a factor because of his hustle.

KEY NEWCOMER: Cal is hoping Saulius Kuzminskas will help free Lampley to play on the wing. A classic European-style big man from Lithuania, Kuzminskas isn't a wide body, but he has good range offensively.

STRATEGY: Cal may not have the league's most physically intimidating team, but the Bears will still be scary because of their quickness. Just about everyone can run the floor. But Cal has no proven scorers other than Lampley. If the Bears can't develop other threats, they could set a record for most NIT games played in a three-year span after winning the 1998 booby prize and playing three games in last season's tournament.

Golden Bears

Coach: Ben Braun (75-50, 4 years; 408-285 overall, 23 years; 5-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 18-15. Pac-10: 7-11/7th. Lost to Wake Forest in NIT third round.
Last league title: 1960.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Berkeley, Calif.
Home court: Haas Pavilion (12,100).
Website: www.calbears.com

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Appg	FG%	FT%	3%
42	F	R. Forehan-Kelly*	6-5/195	Jr.	3.8	2.5	0.6	50.0	50.0	45.3
15	G	Dennis Gates	6-3/190	Jr.	3.6	1.1	0.8	31.3	84.0	28.6
33	F/C	Gabriel Hughes	6-10/—	Fr.	Brother of Solomon is top center prospect.					
14	F/C	Solomon Hughes*	6-11/230	Jr.	5.1	3.4	0.3	53.2	36.8	---
45	F/C	S. Kuzminskas	6-11/220	Fr.	Is Lithuanian Junior National team member.					
21	F	Sean Lampley*	6-7/225	Sr.	16.6	7.4	3.1	50.8	64.6	5.9
1	G	Michael Lawson	6-2/—	Fr.	Averaged 24.5 ppg as high school senior.					
12	G	Shantay Legans*	5-10/165	So.	9.4	2.3	3.7	40.4	85.7	42.7
34	F	Joe Shipp	6-5/215	So.	9.1	2.9	0.9	46.4	76.8	33.1
3	G	Donte Smith*	6-2/195	So.	6.2	1.8	1.2	34.8	81.0	33.3
32	C	Nick Vander Laan	6-10/250	So.	8.5	6.7	0.6	45.2	63.4	0.0
25	G/F	Brian Wethers	6-5/205	So.	5.5	2.9	1.8	42.1	66.7	18.9

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
None								

Schedule

N13-24 Mississippi State*	D23 Coppin State	J20 South Florida	F22 Washington
N29 at Saint Louis	D29-30 Golden Bear Classic	J25 at Washington State	F24 Washington State
D2 at UC Irvine	J4 at Arizona	J27 at Washington	M1 at UCLA
D5 Cleveland State	J6 at Arizona State	F1 UCLA	M3 at USC
D9 Colorado	J11 Oregon	F3 USC	M8 Arizona State
D21 Georgia**	J13 Oregon State	F8 at Oregon State	M10 Arizona
	J17 at Stanford	F10 at Oregon	*Preseason NIT
		F17 Stanford	**Oakland, Calif.

8. Arizona State

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Maybe it's just out of desperation for someone to replace the bulk of Eddie House's scoring, but ASU is expecting plenty from Donnell Knight at small forward. But Knight, the Sun Devils' top recruit in 1999, has appeared lost on the court at

times. Aside from Awvee Storey, a deceptively good rebounder, the Sun Devils' frontcourt is still developing. Chad Prewitt has improved steadily with a capable face-up shot and mid-range jumper. He and Tommy Smith bulked up in the offseason to compete inside. Shawn Redhage needs to find the confidence and consistency he lost when league play began.

BACKCOURT: What else could go wrong for Alton Mason? His father died two seasons ago, his mother came down with lupus last season, and he struggled and briefly lost his starting point guard role to freshman Kyle Dodd. But he finished strongly and should be more effective this season without as many distractions. Dodd, who can shoot and has surprising ability to get to the basket, will share the position again. Hard-nosed Tanner Shell and freshman Jonathan Howard will get cracks at House's off-guard spot, unless Knight shifts over to take it.

KEY NEWCOMER: With House gone, plenty of minutes are there for the slick-shooting Howard.

STRATEGY: ASU will continue to run most of the time, getting many of its points in transition and from offensive rebounding. But the Sun Devils must play better defense and develop more consistent shooters. House single-handedly bailed them out many times last year, and there's no guarantee anybody will do so this year. Another NIT appearance could be difficult.

Sun Devils

Coach: Rob Evans (33-29, 2 years; 119-110 overall, 8 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 19-13. Pac-10: 10-8/T 4th. Lost to NC State in NIT second round.
Last league title: 1975 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Tempe, Ariz.
Home court: University Activity Center (14,198).
Website: www.TheSunDevils.com

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
24	G/F	Justin Allen	6-7/216	So.	2.9	1.2	0.4	34.2	61.3	26.7
3	G	Kyle Dodd	6-0/160	So.	4.2	1.4	2.3	43.4	68.3	32.5
		Jonathan Howard	6-4/185	Fr.	Will challenge for starting off-guard slot.					
22	C	Tyson Johnston	6-11/230	So.	Sat out season after transferring from Utah.					
2	F	Donnell Knight	6-7/200	So.	4.7	2.9	1.0	42.0	61.4	32.3
1	G	Alton Mason*	6-1/180	Sr.	6.2	1.6	2.6	41.8	80.7	35.1
20	G	Brad Nagra	6-4/212	Jr.	0.9	0.5	0.6	33.3	100.0	25.0
52	F/C	Chad Prewitt*	6-9/235	Jr.	9.0	4.3	1.3	51.2	70.8	33.3
42	F	Shawn Redhage*	6-7/210	So.	8.3	3.7	2.0	52.0	83.1	----
15	G	Tanner Shell	6-6/210	So.	7.0	2.8	0.9	36.8	72.3	34.6
4	F	Tommy Smith	6-9/199	So.	4.9	3.1	0.7	48.4	66.0	0.0
11	F	Awvee Storey*	6-6/215	Jr.	9.3	7.6	1.3	42.0	62.3	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Eddie House*	6-1/180	23.0	5.5	3.5	42.2	83.5	36.5

Schedule

N10-11 NABC Classic	D22 Belmont	J20 USC	F24 Arizona
N17 Southern Utah	D29-30 AZCentral.com Tour.	J24 at Arizona	M1 Oregon
N21 Colgate	J4 Stanford	F1 at Oregon State	M3 Oregon State
N25 Kent State	J6 California	F3 at Oregon	M8 at California
D2 BYU	J11 at Washington	F8 Washington State	M10 at Stanford
D16 at San Diego State	J13 at Washington State	F9 Washington	
D20 Mercer	J18 UCLA	F15 at USC	
		F17 at UCLA	

9. Washington

NATIONAL RANK

152

FRONTCOURT: David Dixon brought new meaning to the term "big man" last season, arriving in Seattle at well over 300 pounds. So instead of waiting for him or Marlon Shelton to develop, the Huskies are now hoping to get more from Will Perkins, who played tentatively in the post last season. Things are somewhat more encouraging at forward thanks to Thalo Green, who finds ways to score in traffic. DeMarcus Williams gives the team another big body inside, while the Huskies are still expecting defensive specialist Greg Clark to break out offensively at small forward.

BACKCOURT: Coach Bob Bender couldn't have picked a better time to bring in a pair of well-regarded local guards. Senque Carey bolted for New Mexico, leaving the point guard role wide open for Tacoma natives Curtis Allen and C.J. Massingale, both of whom are quick and able playmakers. Until they learn the system, senior Bryan Brown will get plenty of opportunities. Michael Johnson will be moved from combo guard to strictly wing in an effort to get more scoring from him.

KEY NEWCOMER: Allen adds some versatility in the backcourt, with the ability to play both guard spots and create some of his own scoring on a team that will be desperately seeking offense.

STRATEGY: Bender says he wants to get back to a defense-oriented attack, which makes plenty of sense. There's no guarantee how much scoring this group will generate, with Carey and gunner Deon Luton gone. The one thing Bender won't have to worry about is leadership, with plenty of players around from the Huskies' NCAA Tournament days. But experience and grit alone can't buy a spot in the Pac-10's upper division.

DATA

Huskies

Coach: Bob Bender (95-104, 7 years; 155-161 overall, 11 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 10-20. Pac-10: 5-13/T 8th.

Last league title: 1985 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Seattle

Website: www.gohuskies.com

Home court: Bank of America Arena at Hec Edmundson Pavilion (10,000).

DATA

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	G	Curtis Allen	6-1/160	Fr.	Named	state	Player of the Year	by the AP.		
32	G	Bryan Brown	6-4/230	Sr.	2.0	0.9	1.0	27.7	66.7	27.7
21	F	Greg Clark	6-7/215	Sr.	3.3	1.5	1.2	37.3	69.4	29.7
34	F	Ben Coffee	6-5/190	So.	0.4	0.3	0.2	18.8	----	11.1
50	C	David Dixon	6-11/290	Jr.	1.6	1.8	0.1	25.6	54.2	----
22	G	Travis Duty	6-3/175	Jr.	0.4	0.4	0.2	100.0	----	----
42	F	Thalo Green*	6-7/225	Sr.	6.3	4.9	1.0	46.1	70.8	22.2
23	G	Michael Johnson*	6-4/190	Sr.	9.9	3.6	2.1	41.2	73.9	33.7
31	F	Grant Leep	6-7/220	Jr.	1.6	1.2	0.2	41.7	57.1	50.0
10	G	C.J. Massingale	6-3/185	Fr.	Averaged 22 ppg as high school senior.					
1	F	Will Perkins	6-8/200	Sr.	7.8	5.9	1.0	47.9	53.6	33.3
44	C	Marlon Shelton	6-10/260	Jr.	2.0	2.3	0.1	36.5	54.5	----
4	G	Jason Triplett	6-4/170	So.	Made the team as a walk-on player.					
2	F	DeMarcus Williams	6-9/250	Fr.	Expected to make immediate impact.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Senque Carey*	6-4/210	Transferred to New Mexico.					
G	Deon Luton*	6-5/205	15.1	3.4	1.3	40.4	63.0	37.7
F	Chris Walcott*	6-9/215	9.2	4.4	1.0	45.8	77.9	40.0

Schedule

	International	J13 Arizona	F15 Oregon State
N18 Portland State	D20-22 Puerto Rico	J18 at Oregon	F17 Oregon
N21 Texas-El Paso	Shootout	J20 at Oregon State	F22 at California
N25 New Mexico State	D28 UC Irvine	J25 Stanford	F24 at Stanford
N30 at Wichita State	D30 San Diego	J27 California	M3 at Washington State
D2 at Gonzaga	J4 at UCLA	F3 Washington State	M8 USC
D5 Saint Louis	J6 at USC	F8 at Arizona	M10 UCLA
D16 at Florida	J11 Arizona State	F10 at Arizona State	

10. Washington State

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Eddie Miller's suffering as a 6-7 center should be over, thanks to J Locklier, a transfer from Miami (Ohio), and junior college recruit Paulo Rower. The 6-10 Locklier will give the Cougars a defensive presence inside that was sorely lacking, and

Rower is a 7-footer with some mobility. Either could allow Miller to play a more natural power forward role. Depth is still an issue inside, though coach Paul Graham expects slender Milton Riley to see more time this season.

BACKCOURT: Los Angeles prep stars Marcus Moore and Tommy Johnson were lured to faraway Pullman, Wash., by instant playing time. Moore brings considerable playmaking ability to point guard, while Johnson is a tough-nosed, lefthanded scorer. David Adams is the incumbent starter at off-guard, but he'll have to fight off Johnson, plus shooters Kendall Minor and Jerry McNair.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Cougars' best player last season never put on a uniform. Moore was eligible to play in January after an NCAA clearinghouse delay but opted not to waste the year of eligibility. He now has four seasons to play alongside Graham's improving core of talent. Moore is a substantial upgrade, with good court vision and good passing and penetrating ability.

STRATEGY: Stall ball used to be the Cougars' forte, as they hung around until shooters Jan-Michael Thomas or Chris Crosby were open. Now Graham has the ability to speed things up a bit, with improved athleticism in the backcourt. He also has mostly his own players now after a substantial overhaul in his first year. Although the Cougars are good enough now to surprise a few teams, they aren't ready to jump in the standings yet.

DATA

Cougars

Coach: Paul Graham (6-22, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 6-22. Pac-10: 1-17/10th.

Last league title: 1941.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Pullman, Wash.

Website: www.wsucougars.com

Home court: Friel Court (12, 058).

DATA

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
23	G	David Adams*	6-2/185	So.	7.2	2.9	1.4	40.6	75.4	36.8
5	G	Mike Bush*	6-6/190	Jr.	13.2	6.4	2.4	43.2	71.8	36.6
11	G	Cedric Clark	6-0/185	Sr.	2.1	1.5	2.3	34.0	66.7	33.3
10	G	Nick Graham	6-0/176	So.	1.7	0.5	0.9	38.1	55.6	16.7
0	G	Tommy Johnson	6-5/195	Fr.	Will challenge for starting 2-guard role.					
2	G/F	Frameclo Little	6-6/210	Jr.	Transferred from Dodge City (S.C.) College.					
24	C	J Locklier	6-10/232	Jr.	Sat out year after transfer from Miami (Ohio).					
3	G	Jerry McNair	6-3/180	So.	Transferred from Fullerton (Calif.) College.					
44	F	Eddie Miller*	6-7/215	Sr.	8.6	6.2	1.1	37.4	67.9	40.0
4	G	Kendall Minor	6-4/185	So.	Transferred from College of So. Idaho.					
1	G	Marcus Moore	6-5/180	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
25	F	Milton Riley	6-7/198	So.	2.8	2.3	0.2	45.0	52.9	0.0
45	C	Paulo Rower	7-1/310	Jr.	Native of Santa Maria, Brazil.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Chris Crosby*	6-8/230	15.8	3.8	0.9	43.7	81.0	40.4
F	Tyrone Evans	6-6/227	4.6	3.3	0.5	53.8	56.1	----
G	Blake Pengelly	5-11/167	4.0	3.0	6.8	25.0	38.5	33.3
G	Jan-Michael Thomas*	6-0/179	12.6	1.5	1.4	36.1	81.5	34.9

Schedule

	D16 at Utah	J20 at Oregon	F15 Oregon
N20 Portland State	D23 Sacramento State	J25 California	F17 Oregon State
N25 Colorado State	D30 Nevada	J27 Stanford	F22 at Stanford
N29 at Idaho	J4 at USC	J29 Texas-Pan	F24 at California
D5 at Portland	J6 at UCLA	American	M3 Washington
D9 Maryland Eastern Shore	J11 Arizona	F3 at Washington	M8 UCLA
	J13 Arizona State	F8 at Arizona State	M10 USC
D12 Montana	J18 at Oregon State	F10 at Arizona	

Big Ten

ASCENDING: Iowa. The Hawkeyes will be back in the NCAA Tournament after a year's absence. And conference foes beware: In his second season, coach Steve Alford has only begun to recruit.

DESCENDING: Ohio State. Because Michigan State won the national championship, people tend to forget one thing. The Spartans shared the league title with Ohio State. Alas, poor depleted Buckeyes. No postseason for them. Purdue, one game

from the Final Four last March, will be caught in the same kind of downdraft ... despite the wizardry of Gene Keady.

BIGGEST SNEAK-ERS TO FILL:

Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State. Someday Marcus Taylor might pass Cleaves on the list of great Michigan State point guards. But not in 2001.

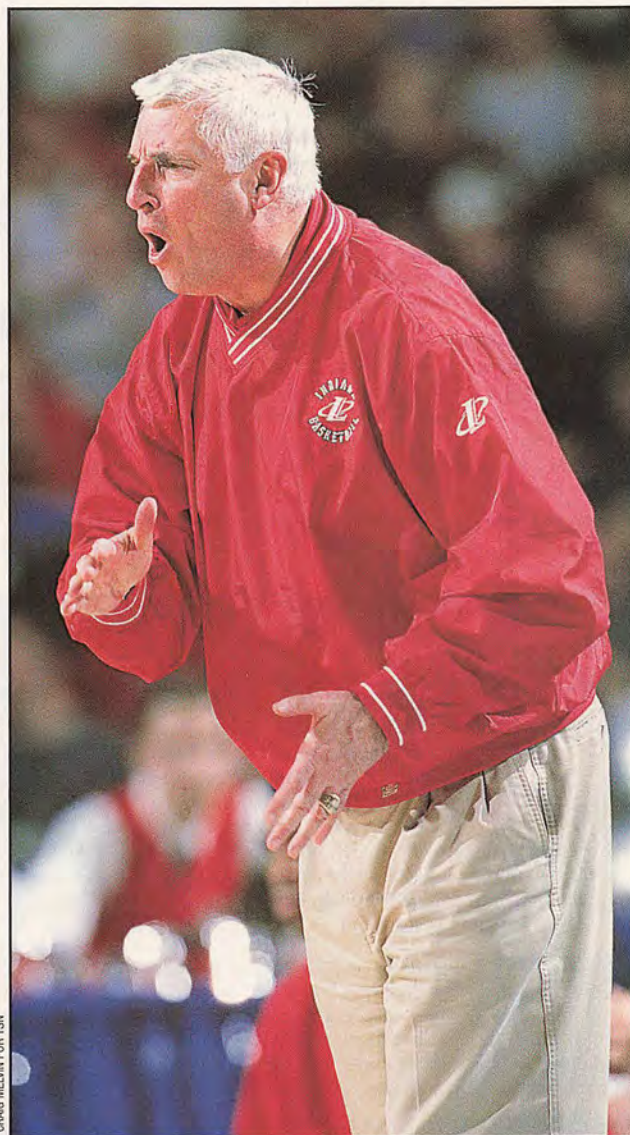
MOST UNDER-RATED PLAYER:

Andy Kowske, Wisconsin. The eighth-seeded Badgers didn't merely stumble into the Final Four. Kowske, a 6-8 oak tree, held his ground in the paint and nearly averaged a double-double for the team's four-game run to Indianapolis.

MOST OVER-RATED PLAYER:

Dane Fife, Indiana. He is a McDonald's All-American who has yet to consistently play like one. The junior has had his moments but not enough of them for a former Michigan Mr. Basketball. You have to like a guy who leads his team in steals. Yet you would think all that hustle and heart would result in more than 5 points and three rebounds a game.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Bob Knight, Indiana. He will have no trouble guiding the Hoosiers to their 16th straight NCAA Tournament. Even if his team loses in the first round for the fifth time in seven years,



POWDER KEG: Knight is entering his 30th season at Indiana and will have no trouble making the NCAA Tournament, but it's no sure thing he will make it to 31.

he'll survive. So long as he behaves. That's the catch. Unlike fellow hot-seat inhabitants, Brian Ellerbe of Michigan and Jerry Dunn of Penn State, Knight merely has to conduct himself in a civilized manner. For most coaches, that would be no problem. For Knight, it's a trek up Mt. Everest in sandals. The postseason was no Club Med for Dunn, either. He withstood allegations by former players Matt Gaudio and Pete

By MARC HANSEN

Des Moines Register

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Michigan State* | 7. Penn State |
| 2. Illinois* | 8. Purdue |
| 3. Wisconsin* | 9. Ohio State |
| 4. Iowa* | 10. Minnesota |
| 5. Indiana* | 11. Northwestern |
| 6. Michigan* | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Big Ten

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Joe Crispin, Penn State	6-0	185	Sr.
G	Charlie Bell, Michigan State	6-3	200	Sr.
G	Cory Bradford, Illinois	6-3	200	Jr.
C	Kirk Haston, Indiana	6-10	230	Jr.
F	LaVell Blanchard, Michigan	6-7	205	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Dean Oliver, Iowa	5-11	175	Sr.
F	Jason Richardson, Michigan St.	6-6	220	So.
F	Brian Cook, Illinois	6-10	240	So.
C	Ken Johnson, Ohio St.	6-11	235	Sr.
F	Luke Recker, Iowa	6-6	210	Jr.

Player of the Year

Cory Bradford, G, Illinois

Newcomer of the Year

Zach Randolph, C, Michigan St.

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Cory Bradford, Illinois
- Best rebounder:** Kirk Haston, Indiana
- Best playmaker:** Joe Crispin, Penn State
- Best defender:** Ken Johnson, Ohio State
- Best leaper:** Jason Richardson, Michigan State
- Best under 6-0:** Dean Oliver, Iowa
- Best over 7-0:** Ken Johnson, on his tippy toes.
- Most versatile:** Charlie Bell, Michigan State
- Most flamboyant:** Frank Williams, Illinois
- Best NBA prospect:** Jason Richardson, Michigan State

Lisicky that practices were too long and too rigorous and violated NCAA rules. Before removing himself from consideration, Dunn was in the running for the open position at Tulane.

BEST BETS: In his 30th season as Indiana coach, Knight will still be cranky and confrontational. He will be hard on his players. But he will not resort to potty-stall motivational techniques. He will fling no potted plants, shove no athletic directors, strangle no combo guards. But he will embarrass the school that employs him. That school, however, will claim not to be embarrassed, and life will go on. ... Steve Alford will approach Knight at the Big Ten tip-off meetings in Chicago and shake his old mentor's hand, as he should have done the year before. ... Knight will return the hand shake while stopping short of inviting Alford, or Luke Recker, to go fishing for crappie on Lake Monroe. ... Recker and Knight will not shake hands January 27 when the Hoosiers play at Iowa City. ... Minnesota will be hit with additional sanctions, though none of the villains will be around to feel the pain. ... There will be no nickname that is the colorful equal of Scoonie. ... Sticky-fingered Mike Kelley will lead the league in steals. The Wisconsin senior is tied for sixth among the career Big Ten leaders. ... Penn State fifth-year senior Titus Ivory will average more than 12 points again, but nobody outside Happy Valley will notice. ... Joe Crispin will launch 30 shots in one game and everyone outside Happy Valley will notice. ... Michigan State's Tom

Izzo will not follow Lon Kruger and Kevin O'Neill to the NBA after the season. ... Gene Keady, surprise, will squeeze more out of mediocre Purdue than anyone has a right to expect.

ODDS AND ENDS: Michigan State's Zach Randolph, roundly considered the league's top recruit, is a risk. He once was sentenced to 40 days in a Marion, Ind., juvenile detention center for possessing and selling a stolen handgun. But he is obviously a risk Izzo, and hundreds of other coaches, deemed worth taking. ... The league coaches experienced temporary brain lock letting Brian Cook of Illinois share freshman-of-the-year honors with the media's choice, Michigan's LaVell Blanchard. Cook is a fine talent, but here's the difference. One rebounds, the other doesn't. ... The one who rebounds declined an invitation to try out for the national 20-and-under team. Instead, he took a physics course. Blanchard would like to attend medical school someday. ... Bill Martin, the new Michigan athletic director, is no relation to Ed Martin, the banned booster who may yet be the ruin of the Wolverine basketball program. ... On January 10, when Penn State plays at Ohio State, former Penn State coach Bruce Parkhill will be rooting against Jerry Dunn and the Nittany Lions. When Parkhill was the head coach at Penn State, Dunn was his longtime assistant and eventual successor. In August, after five years away from coaching, Parkhill became an Ohio State assistant. More coaching, less recruiting. Such a deal.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
Joe Crispin	Penn State	18.5
Cory Bradford	Illinois	15.3
Kirk Haston	Indiana	15.3
LaVell Blanchard	Michigan	14.4
Dean Oliver	Iowa	13.6

Name	School	RPG
Kirk Haston	Indiana	8.3
LaVell Blanchard	Michigan	7.9
Dusty Rychart	Minnesota	7.9
Andre Hutson	Michigan State	6.2
Andy Kowske	Wisconsin	6.2

Name	School	APG
Joe Crispin	Penn State	5.2
Kevin Gaines	Michigan	4.6
Dean Oliver	Iowa	4.2
Terrance Simmons	Minnesota	4.1
Carson Cunningham	Purdue	4.1

Name	School	FG%
Josh Asselin	Michigan	59.4
Andre Hutson	Michigan State	58.6
Andy Kowske	Wisconsin	58.3
Ken Johnson	Ohio State	55.3
Marcus Griffin	Illinois	54.7

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Michigan State	13	3	32	7	14	0	18	7
Ohio State	13	3	23	7	15	2	8	5
Purdue	12	4	24	10	12	2	12	8
Illinois	11	5	22	10	12	1	10	9
Indiana	10	6	20	9	10	2	10	7
Wisconsin	8	8	22	14	11	3	11	11
Michigan	6	10	15	14	12	5	3	9
Iowa	6	10	14	16	9	4	5	12
Penn State	5	11	19	16	13	4	6	12
Minnesota	4	12	12	16	11	4	1	12
Northwestern	0	16	5	13	5	12	0	13

Ranking the Recruiting

1. Michigan State. Reload mode? Hard to do better than Marcus Taylor & Zach Randolph.
2. Iowa. Plugged every hole and snagged transfers Luke Recker & Ryan Hogan.
3. Indiana. Jared Jeffries said no to Duke, yes to home and Bloomington.
4. Michigan. Can't compete in-state with national champs, but grabbed 7-2 Josh Moore and Avery Queen.
5. Wisconsin. Top in-state prep Michael Wilkinson is big catch. SG Ricky Bower could pay immediate dividends.
6. Purdue. PF Brett Buscher won't waste time pushing his way into a depleted lineup.
7. Illinois. SG Brett Melton will take heat off Cory Bradford. C Nick Smith may be dream catch.
8. Ohio State. PF Zack Williams could provide instant help. The Buckeyes need it.
9. Penn State. Didn't need guard help but added Sharif Chambliss and Jamaal Tate.
10. Northwestern. Jitum Young, one of six freshmen, could crack the starting five.
11. Minnesota. Kerwin Fleming and Tavarus Bennett can't turn program around alone.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Indiana	29	47.8	70.7	37.7	38.9	16.0	7.5	4.9	14.5	77.7
Illinois	32	43.3	68.8	35.5	36.9	15.6	9.3	3.7	14.3	75.8
Michigan	29	45.7	68.3	34.3	37.3	14.3	5.4	4.2	17.0	75.5
Michigan State	39	47.4	73.5	37.8	38.8	15.4	6.6	2.7	14.6	74.1
Purdue	34	44.4	68.4	35.0	36.0	14.2	7.7	3.0	14.9	73.5
Penn State	35	44.1	71.5	34.8	34.9	15.1	8.1	3.0	15.2	73.4
Ohio State	30	45.6	70.4	31.8	37.5	12.9	6.5	6.7	12.6	72.7
Minnesota	28	45.4	63.4	31.1	38.2	16.0	6.6	5.3	17.1	70.2
Iowa	30	40.9	67.5	34.6	34.8	12.9	6.9	1.8	14.1	68.8
Wisconsin	36	42.7	68.1	31.1	30.7	13.3	6.6	2.8	11.3	59.9
Northwestern	30	36.8	69.2	31.9	29.8	12.2	4.8	2.8	16.2	51.5

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Wisconsin	36	39.7	69.3	34.3	32.5	10.0	4.9	2.8	11.3	55.8
Michigan State	39	39.4	68.3	30.1	27.2	11.1	5.6	2.5	13.7	58.9
Ohio State	30	37.8	66.2	35.6	34.5	11.8	5.2	2.6	15.3	61.7
Northwestern	30	36.8	68.9	34.2	35.5	14.7	8.4	4.3	16.2	64.5
Illinois	32	40.4	68.5	30.8	36.7	12.7	6.2	3.1	18.3	65.6
Purdue	34	44.4	63.4	30.5	36.0	13.3	6.4	3.3	17.2	66.2
Indiana	29	47.8	68.7	33.2	36.9	13.4	6.9	3.4	16.0	68.4
Iowa	30	40.9	69.3	33.3	37.1	14.8	6.7	3.3	15.8	71.6
Penn State	35	45.2	71.4	29.4	36.8	15.5	7.5	3.9	15.8	72.3
Minnesota	28	44.3	68.1	35.2	34.8	14.5	9.3	4.4	14.3	73.0
Michigan	29	44.7	69.5	37.2	36.4	15.7	7.8	3.2	14.7	79.5

1. Michigan State

NATIONAL RANK

3

Schedule

N19 Oakland
N24-25 Spartan Classic
N29 North Carolina
D2 Illinois-Chicago
D6 Florida
D9 at Loyola (Ill.)
D16 Kentucky
D19 Seton Hall
D27 at Bowling Green
D30 Wright State
J3 Penn State
J7 at Indiana
J10 Northwestern
J13 Wisconsin
J21 Ohio State
J24 at Northwestern
J27 at Ohio State
J30 at Michigan
F4 Purdue
F6 at Illinois
F10 at Minnesota
F18 Iowa
F20 Indiana
F24 at Penn State
F27 at Wisconsin
M3 Michigan

FRONT COURT: The defending national champions lose a first-round NBA draft choice, Morris Peterson, and another forward, A.J. Granger, who'll be playing for pay somewhere this winter. Peterson and Granger are two huge losses, but Spartans fans should not despair. Leading rebounder Andre Hutson is back for his senior year. Also, two of the biggest contributors on the national 20-and-under team were Spartans. Freshman power forward Zach Randolph and sophomore small forward Jason Richardson started all five games for a team that finished second to Argentina at the world championship qualifying tournament last summer in Brazil. Richardson, who came off the bench last season to average 5.1 points and 4.1 rebounds, has the potential to out-Peterson Peterson as an acrobatic, outside-shooting dynamo. Expect Randolph and Richardson to start and help the Spartans make another run at the league title. Sophomore Aloysius Anagonye, who ranked second on the team in blocks in limited duty, should give the Spartans an inside defensive and rebounding presence. They'll need one. Florida controlled the interior in the NCAA title game. Who knows how Tom Izzo will find time for third-year sophomore Adam Ballinger and redshirt freshman Adam Wolfe and Jason Andreas. Izzo watchers, however, know he'll try.

BACK COURT: Mateen Cleaves is living close by, but not close enough. As a rookie

with the Detroit Pistons, the heart and soul of the 2000 NCAA champs will be unable to help his team go for a repeat. Versatile shooting guard Charlie Bell returns. Moving out of Cleaves' shadow, he'll get the chance to prove he is one of the Big Ten's best players. When Cleaves missed 13 games with a stress fracture to start the season, Bell filled in competently at the point. If ballyhooed freshman Marcus Taylor isn't ready, Izzo has a dependable alternative. Odds are good that Taylor, the best player to come out of East Lansing since Magic Johnson, will be ready, but don't expect miracles. The transition from McDonald's All-American to productive Big Ten point guard is a tough one. If the Spartans want to go small, they can put Richardson on the wing. If they want to go bigger, they can move 6-9 outside specialist Mike Chappell to off-guard.

KEY NEWCOMER: The future of Michigan State basketball was on display at the Final Four—a few blocks from the RCA Dome at the NABC/Nike International Hoop Summit. In the USA Junior Select team's 98-97 victory over a team of international stars, Randolph scored a game-high 24 points and grabbed eight rebounds. A few days before, Randolph led Marion High to the Indiana Class 4A title. This came on the heels of the McDonald's All-American game in Boston, where he was named MVP.

STRATEGY: The Spartans can walk or run to victory. The Final Four, in which they beat Wisconsin and Florida, was proof. Opponents, choose your poison. Without Cleaves' patience and know-how, however, it's doubtful the Spartans will still be as good in the halfcourt. If experience wasn't so important in the Big Ten, this team would be the consensus choice. But remember this: The three players who scored 58 of the Spartans' 89 points against the Gators are gone. Though Izzo is back after a serious flirtation with the NBA, no senior trio will be missed more than Cleaves, Peterson and Granger.



ANSWERING THE CALL: Bell (above) did an admirable job filling in for Cleaves last season and will get a chance to prove he is one of the Big Ten's best players.

DATA

Spartans

Coach: Tom Izzo (120-48, 5 years; 12-2 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 2000).

1999-2000 record: 32-7. Big Ten: 13-3/T1st. Beat Florida in NCAA final.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: East Lansing, Mich.

Website: www.msuspartans.com

Home court: Breslin Center (14,659).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
25	F	Aloysius Anagonye	6-8/255	So.	2.9	3.0	0.3	55.6	63.0	—
44	C	Jason Andreas	6-10/240	Fr.	Redshirt center needs better offensive skills.					
55	F	Adam Ballinger	6-9/245	So.	2.0	1.7	0.3	64.4	78.9	—
14	G	Charlie Bell*	6-3/200	Sr.	11.5	4.9	3.2	45.3	80.2	34.2
20	G/F	Mike Chappell	6-9/215	Sr.	5.9	2.2	0.6	38.3	72.9	31.6
34	F	Andre Hutson*	6-8/240	Sr.	10.2	6.2	1.5	58.6	66.9	0.0
15	G	Mat Ishbia	5-10/155	So.	0.5	0.2	0.2	60.0	50.0	0.0
50	C	Zach Randolph	6-9/270	Fr.	Might have biggest impact of any D-1 frosh.					
23	G/F	Jason Richardson	6-6/220	So.	5.1	4.1	0.6	50.3	54.8	29.6
10	G	Brandon Smith	5-11/180	Sr.	0.4	0.2	0.8	27.3	33.3	33.3
1	G	Marcus Taylor	6-3/190	Fr.	Mature beyond years as Cleaves' successor.					
11	G/F	David Thomas	6-7/205	Sr.	2.4	2.4	1.5	40.8	71.4	11.1
3	F	Adam Wolfe	6-9/215	Fr.	Redshirt. Will he be another A.J. Granger?					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Mateen Cleaves*	6-2/205	12.1	1.8	6.9	42.1	75.6	37.6
F	A.J. Granger*	6-9/230	9.5	5.3	1.2	50.0	89.3	45.0
F	Morris Peterson*	6-7/215	16.8	6.0	1.3	46.5	77.3	42.5

2. Illinois

NATIONAL RANK

8

Schedule

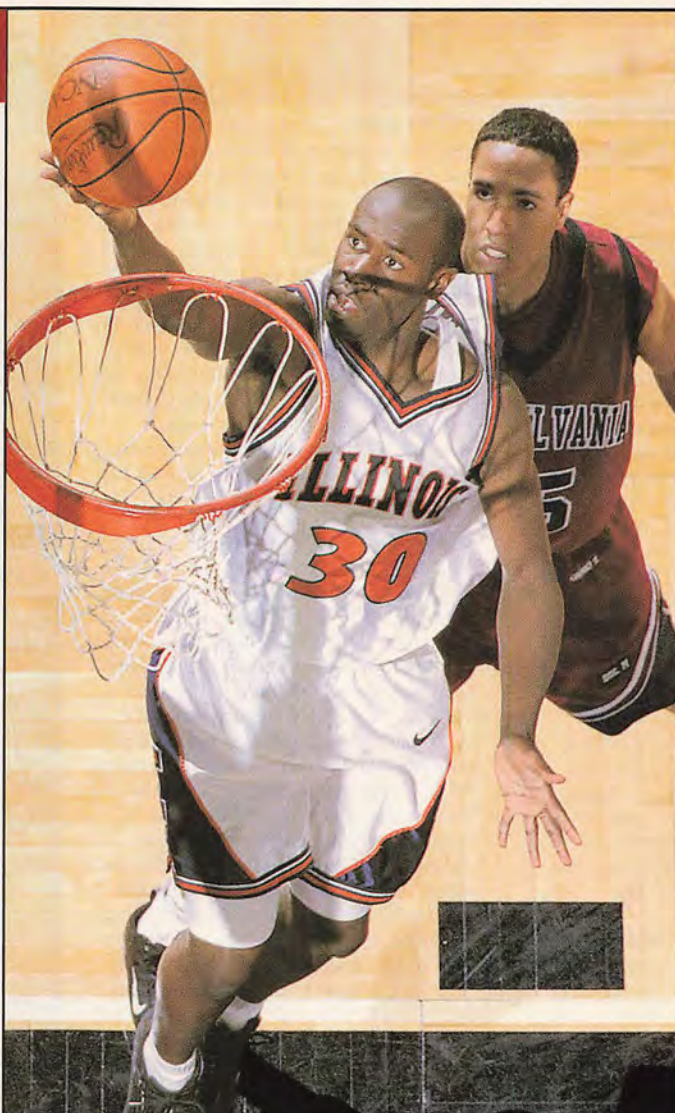
N17 Maine
N20-22 Maui Invitational
N26 Texas Southern
N28 Duke*
D2 at Kansas State
D9 Seton Hall
D16 Arizona**
D21 Missouri***
D23 at Texas
D29 Illinois-Chicago
J3 Minnesota
J6 Ohio State
J11 at Iowa
J13 Michigan
J17 at Northwestern
J20 Penn State
J25 at Michigan
J31 at Penn State
F3 Northwestern
F6 Michigan State
F10 at Purdue
F13 Wisconsin
F17 at Indiana
F22 at Ohio State
F24 Iowa
M3 at Minnesota
*Greensboro, N.C.
**Chicago
***St. Louis

FRONTCOURT: Like many freshmen, Brian Cook hit the wall at the end of his rookie season. It took him a long time to get there, but when he did, you could hear the thud in Winston-Salem all the way back to Champaign. Other than his NCAA Tournament no-show, it's hard to find fault with the 6-10 forward. Cook started the final 17 games—he replaced the injured Marcus Griffin—averaged 9 points for the season and made the Big Ten all-tourney team. He wasn't much help against Penn and Florida, though, with a total of only 2 points and four rebounds in Illinois' two NCAA Tournament games. With his silky touch and graceful mobility, Cook is a wonderful talent and a Big Ten player-of-the-year candidate. He'll need to be if the Illini are to live up to the preseason hype. Cook, the Big Ten co-freshman of the year with LaVell Blanchard, will have loads of help inside, presuming Griffin has totally recovered from knee surgery. Griffin, the only senior starter and another all-Big Ten caliber athlete, has the power game to complement Cook's finesse. The only component Illinois lacks (and who doesn't), is a true center. Robert Archibald, Lucas Johnson and Damir Krupalija provide size and strength. Sergio McClain can rotate in from the backcourt. Though nobody will have more front-line depth, here's a scary thought: With all those big bodies, Illinois still had a minus-1.2 rebounding margin in Big Ten play. Not one of the Illini ranked in the league's top 20.

BACKCOURT: Cory Bradford has made a 3-pointer in every game he has played with the Illini. Heading into his junior year, his streak stands at 64, only nine from the NCAA record. When it comes to long-range shooting, Bradford has no fear. And possibly no peer. In only two college seasons, he ranks third on the school's all-time list with 181 3-pointers. The bigger the opponent, the better he seems to shoot. Witness the five treys against Florida in the NCAA Tournament. Last season, averaging 15.3 points, he was a second-team all-Big Ten pick. This season, barring injury, he's a shoo-in first-teamer. The key, however, is his backcourt mate Frank Williams, another one of those former Illinois Mr. Basketballs from Peoria. Last season, Williams gave Lon Kruger fits with his inconsistency. This season, he'll be toying with the emotional well-being of Bill Self, who was named the new coach after Kruger left for the Atlanta Hawks.

KEY NEWCOMER: None. Not on this sophomore- and junior-dominated team. True freshman Brett Melton brings a reputation for 3-point mastery. Maybe he can take pressure off Bradford.

STRATEGY: Kruger talked about running and pressing, but it was hard to walk the walk (or run the run) whenever the Illini turned into Team Turnover. Judging by Tulsa's scores under Self, the Illini will press and run more. Self's final team at Tulsa averaged 80.4 points; Kruger's at Illinois averaged 75.8 (second in the Big Ten). Though Self is more outgoing and charismatic than Kruger, lack of style points wasn't a problem in the Illini's 22-victory, fourth-place season. The main problem was floor leadership. If Self can get Williams on the same page and find more bodies to crash the boards, the Illini could win the Big Ten and venture deep into the NCAAs. Illinois hasn't advanced to the Sweet 16 since reaching the Final Four in 1989. With all five starters back, this should be the year they return to the third round, at least.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING: Williams went through some shaky moments in his first season as a starter, but he wound up leading Illinois in assists, steals and free-throw percentage.

DATA Fighting Illini

Coach: Bill Self (first year; 130-80 overall, 7 years; 4-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 22-10. Big Ten: 11-5/4th. Lost to Florida in NCAA East second round.

Last league title: 1998 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Champaign-Urbana, Ill.

Website: www.fightingillini.com

Home court: Assembly Hall (16,450).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
21	F	Robert Archibald	6-11/250	Jr.	3.4	3.5	0.5	52.2	64.6	—
13	G	Cory Bradford*	6-3/200	Jr.	15.3	2.5	2.0	37.1	73.2	37.6
34	F	Brian Cook*	6-10/240	So.	9.0	4.5	0.8	52.6	61.4	31.6
12	G	Joe Cross	6-2/200	Sr.	0.9	0.3	0.0	66.7	—	33.3
52	F	Marcus Griffin*	6-9/235	Sr.	10.7	5.0	0.7	54.7	65.4	—
24	G	Sean Harrington	6-3/185	So.	3.4	3.2	0.5	52.2	64.6	—
25	G	Jerrance Howard	6-1/190	Fr.	Redshirt, close fit for Self's def. philosophy.					
22	F	Lucas Johnson	6-8/230	Jr.	6.1	3.3	1.9	42.0	72.8	39.7
33	F	Damir Krupalija	6-9/232	Jr.	4.0	4.1	1.0	58.1	51.6	27.8
5	G	Nate Mast	5-11/170	Sr.	0.7	0.4	0.8	27.3	72.7	25.0
40	F	Sergio McClain*	6-4/230	Sr.	6.8	3.8	2.5	45.2	70.8	30.8
0	F	Brett Melton	6-5/195	Fr.	May figure more in plans than people think.					
C		Nick Smith	7-1/245	Fr.	Kruger recruit, outside shooter. Needs time.					
30	G	Frank Williams*	6-3/205	So.	11.4	3.4	4.1	38.2	80.4	31.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%3%
G/F	Cleotis Brown	6-5/220	7.0	3.5	1.0	40.9	69.0 32.3

3. Wisconsin

NATIONAL RANK

16

Schedule

N21 at Tennessee
N25 Northern Illinois
N29 at Maryland
D2 Xavier
D9 Ohio University
D11 UW-Milwaukee
D14 at Temple
D23 at Marquette
D30 South Florida
J4 Indiana
J6 at Minnesota
J10 at Purdue
J13 at Michigan State
J16 Iowa
J24 Ohio State
J27 Penn State
J30 Butler
F3 at Michigan
F7 Purdue
F10 at Ohio State
F13 at Illinois
F18 Northwestern
F21 Minnesota
F24 at Indiana
F27 Michigan State
M3 Iowa

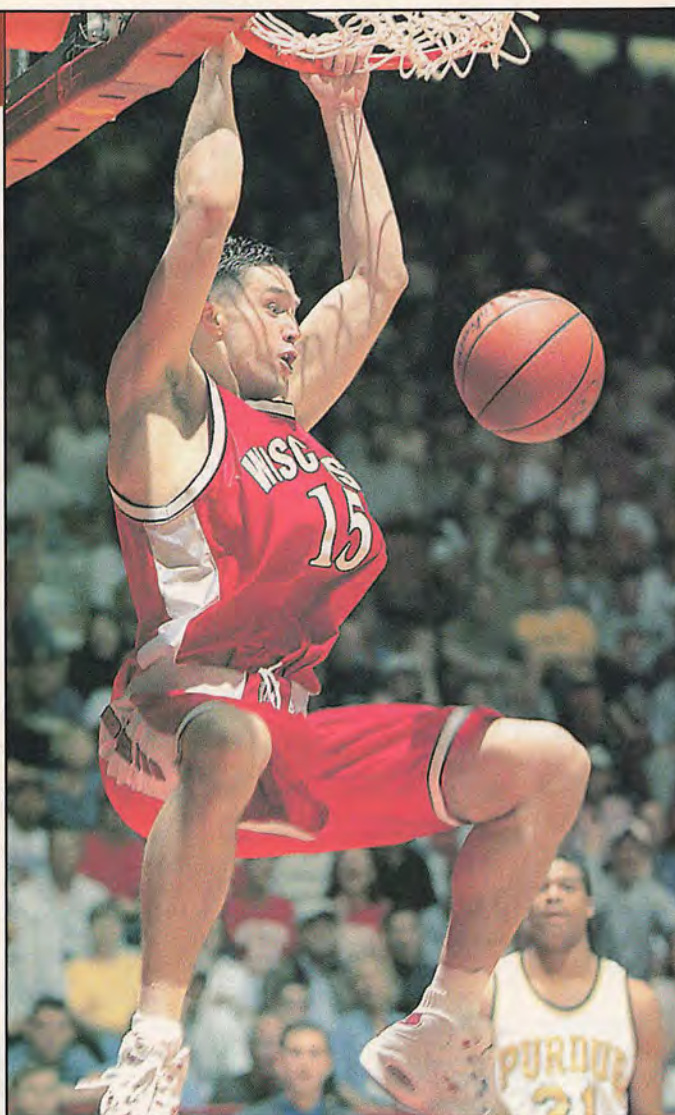
FRONTCOURT: Everybody's back. Leading scorer and assist man Mark Vershaw returns for his final season. Fellow senior Andy Kowske, second on the team in scoring during the run to the Final Four, joins Vershaw in the paint. He averaged nearly 10 rebounds a game through the tournament and might be the team's best athlete. Maurice Linton and Charlie Wills will continue to make contributions. This is not a flashy group, but so what? Add to the mix Wisconsin's best high school player from last year, Michael Wilkinson, a sweet-shooting 6-8 forward, and redshirt center Dave Mader, and coach Dick Bennett has more than enough big, strong bodies.

BACKCOURT: Only two seniors are gone from the Final Four team. Trouble is, the two players, Jon Bryant and Duany Duany, were the team's best outside shooters. Do not underestimate their importance. So much of the Badger offense depends upon success from behind the arc. The team struggles so mightily creating shots at times that they often live or die from 3-point territory. Bryant, Wisconsin's leading NCAA Tournament scorer, was named the most outstanding player of the West region. Until Michigan State shut him down in the Final Four, he had been averaging 16.8 points per tournament game.

Duany led the Big Ten in 3-point shooting at 45.6 percent. The Badgers desperately need to replace their output. Kirk Penney, who in late August was expected to play for New Zealand in the 2000 Olympics, is the best possibility. When Julian Swartz decided to take a medical leave of absence, the Badgers offered his scholarship to another shooter, JC stand-out Ricky Bower, who has been on a Mormon mission the past two years. Bower will contend for a place in the guard rotation, though it is not a weakness. In Mike Kelley, the Badgers have the best defensive point guard in the Big Ten and possibly college basketball. Only one player, Oklahoma's Mookie Blaylock, had more steals in an NCAA Tournament. Kelley had 19 swipes in five games. Blaylock had 23 in six. Roy Boone is possibly the only guy who can break down an opposing defense. He scored 18 points in the Final Four loss to the Spartans. The game is still about putting the ball in the basket, and the Badgers need work in that department.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Wilkinson was a nice catch, though he won't be stealing court time from the four frontcourt returnees. Bower was a good catch, too. The Badgers wouldn't have known about him had it not been for Tony Bennett, the coach's son, who joined the Badgers coaching staff in August after working as a manager the year before. Bennett spent three seasons with the Charlotte Hornets in the NBA after playing for his father at Wisconsin-Green Bay.

STRATEGY: Suffocating man-to-man defense, patient, error-free, offense and great shot selection got the Badgers to the Final Four—without a single player earning honorable mention all-conference status. Bennett will wear spiked heels in public before he changes that formula. A team starting five seniors fresh from the Final Four normally would be considered the league favorite, but the Badgers still have doubters. The ugly 53-41 loss to Michigan State in Indianapolis won few converts. But know this, ye of little faith: Wisconsin lost four times after February 2. Games lost after that date to teams other than Michigan State? Zero.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

BEHIND THE GRIT: The Badgers' ugly style of play obscures the true value of Kowske, who was a key performer in Wisconsin's stretch run to the Final Four.

DATA Badgers

Coach: Dick Bennett (91-68, 5 years; 451-257 overall, 24 years; 6-5 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 22-14. Big Ten: 8-8/6th. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA national semifinal.

Last league title: 1947.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Madison, Wis.

Website: www.uwbadgers.com

Home court: Kohl Center (17,142).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter				
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%
32	G	Roy Boone	6-3/190	Sr.	6.1	3.1	1.6	34.3	73.1
	G	Ricky Bower	6-4/—	Jr.	JC transfer will compete for rotation spot.				
3	G	Travon Davis	5-10/180	Jr.	2.1	1.5	1.2	38.4	45.0
21	F	Kyle Gruczyński	6-7/200	Fr.	Small forward type won't play much.				
22	G	Mike Kelley*	6-3/185	Sr.	5.0	2.3	3.2	56.3	74.2
15	F	Andy Kowske*	6-8/230	Sr.	9.2	6.2	0.4	58.3	64.8
5	F	Maurice Linton*	6-8/215	Sr.	4.5	2.7	0.8	44.9	69.2
30	F/C	Dave Mader	6-11/240	Fr.	Redshirt is more of a project in 2000-01.				
24	G	Freddie Owens	6-2/185	Fr.	Potential to be defensive stopper like Kelley.				
20	G	Kirk Penney	6-5/205	So.	3.7	1.4	0.8	33.3	73.7
50	F	Mark Vershaw*	6-9/235	Sr.	11.8	4.3	3.3	45.4	73.6
54	F	Michael Wilkinson	6-8/215	Fr.	Will be fine once adapts to Wisconsin's style.				
40	F	Charlie Wills	6-8/230	Jr.	3.7	2.6	0.4	37.0	67.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jon Bryant*	6-2/185	8.2	2.4	1.2	38.7	63.2	39.2
G	Duany Duany	6-5/180	5.2	1.7	0.4	36.3	65.2	39.2

4. Iowa

NATIONAL RANK

31

FRONTCOURT: Steve Alford hopes junior college transfer Reggie Evans, at 6-8, 245 pounds, is the banger he didn't have in his first year when the Hawkeyes missed the NAAs. Evans averaged 22.5 points and 12 rebounds at Coffeyville (Kan.) CC. The team

finished 10th in Big Ten rebounding margin with Jacob Jaacks (7.3 rpg) at center. Without him now, someone else must step forward as resident glass cleaner. Freshmen Jared Reiner, a top 50 prospect, and Sean Sonderleiter bring size and strength to the interior but could be a year or two away. Duez Henderson is a solid junior who will help in the frontcourt. Freshman Glen Worley can play inside or out and may need to step in quickly following Rob Griffin's late-summer dismissal from the team.

BACKCOURT: Point guard Dean Oliver, a third-team all-Big Ten selection last season, scored 30 points against Michigan State in the league tourney. He and Indiana/Arizona transfer Luke Recker could rank among the top guard tandems in the country. The Hawkeyes hope Kyle Galloway or Kentucky transfer Ryan Hogan can give them a 3-point threat reminiscent of Kent McCausland, who led the nation three years ago.

KEY NEWCOMER: Recker is healthy, happy and eligible to play after a year of emotional and physical trauma after the horrible, much-publicized car crash that led to his return to the Big Ten.

STRATEGY: Iowa runs the same motion offense and plays the same man-to-man defense Alford learned at Indiana. Someday he hopes to coach the same kind of players Knight had when Alford led the Hoosiers to the 1987 NCAA title. With one of the top recruiting classes in the country, he seems to be on his way.

Hawkeyes

Coach: Steve Alford (14-16, 1 year; 170-93 overall, 9 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 14-16. Big Ten: 6-10/77th.

Last league title: 1979.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Iowa City, Iowa.

Website: www.hawkeyesports.com

Home court: Carver-Hawkeye Arena (15,500).

*1999-2000 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	Brody Boyd	5-11/155	Fr.	Third-best scorer in Indiana prep history.					
32	F	Reggie Evans	6-8/245	Jr.	One of best JC players to be had this year.					
13	F	Joe Fermino	6-7/225	Sr.	2.2	2.3	0.2	41.9	57.7	0.0
30	G	Kyle Galloway	6-6/190	Jr.	8.5	2.9	1.6	38.8	84.1	36.3
23	F	Duez Henderson*	6-7/200	Jr.	6.9	5.1	0.7	45.7	57.1	40.0
2	G	Ryan Hogan	6-4/185	Jr.	Transferred from Kentucky. A 3-point threat.					
20	G	Dean Oliver*	5-11/175	Sr.	13.6	2.9	4.2	36.9	76.6	32.0
24	G	Luke Recker	6-6/210	Jr.	Transfer is a two-time All-Big Ten player.					
5	C	Jared Reiner	6-11/250	Fr.	South Dakota player of the year has bulk.					
52	F	Courtney Scott	6-6/245	Fr.	Averaged a double-double as HS senior.					
43	G	Jason Smith	6-3/202	Sr.	0.6	0.3	0.0	36.4	37.5	0.0
53	C	Sean Sonderleiter	6-9/225	Fr.	USA Today honorable mention All-American.					
25	F	Rod Thompson	6-6/230	Jr.	4.1	2.9	0.5	41.9	64.7	16.7
45	F	John Carl Williams	6-9/250	Jr.	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	—	—
4	F	Glen Worley	6-7/220	Fr.	Named Iowa player of year by USA Today.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Rob Griffin*	6-6/215	12.2	3.6	1.4	39.0	68.4	40.1
C	Jacob Jaacks*	6-9/235	12.2	7.3	1.0	46.8	60.2	37.5
G	Ryan Luehrsmann*	6-1/175	7.0	2.9	2.0	40.8	68.8	28.1
G	Jason Price	6-0/170	2.0	1.0	1.5	40.8	78.3	33.3

Schedule

N19 Wis.-Milwaukee	D16 Missouri	J16 at Wisconsin	F14 at Michigan
N21 at Drake	D19 Centenary	J20 Michigan	F18 at Michigan State
N28 Georgia Tech	D23 at Kansas State	J24 at Minnesota	F20 Purdue
D1-2 Hawkeye Challenge	D27-30 Rainbow Classic	J27 Indiana	F24 at Illinois
D5 Northern Iowa	J6 at Penn State	J31 Minnesota	F27 Penn State
D9 Iowa State	J11 Illinois	F7 Ohio State	M3 Wisconsin
	J13 at Purdue	F10 at Northwestern	

5. Indiana

NATIONAL RANK

39

FRONTCOURT: Kirk Haston never looked imposing while lurking in A.J. Guyton's shadow. But his numbers do stand out, including 50 percent shooting from the field and 17 points per game in Big Ten action. It will be partly Haston's job to lift the Hoosiers back

to national prominence. Sophomore Jeffrey Newton averaged a surprising 6.8 points and 3.8 rebounds in 19.3 minutes per game last year. If cleared of marijuana possession charges from this summer, he'll likely be joined in the lineup by freshman and local star Jared Jeffries. Redshirt freshman George Leach, a 6-11, 220-pounder, could bring fear back into the paint for opponents.

BACKCOURT: The Hoosiers lose first-team All-American Guyton and will miss his 21 points per game. But judging by his performance in the dreadful NCAA Tournament loss to Pepperdine, he was already gone. They'll also miss Michael Lewis' ballhandling, not to mention his feistiness. Help is on the way in A.J. Moyer and Andre Owens. Unless Dane Fife improves after two ho-hum seasons, the two rookies must run the show.

KEY NEWCOMER: Hoosier Nation breathed a sigh of relief when Jeffries chose the hometown school. If he had strayed, that might have clinched it for Knight's supporters, who would have seen the coach as too damaged to even recruit the favorite son.

STRATEGY: The Hoosiers still run the halfcourt, motion offense. They still pick and screen and make the opposing defense sweat blood. Don't be fooled by all that structure. This team isn't afraid to push it in the open floor. It led the Big Ten in scoring at 77.7 points per game. Indiana's vaunted defense has been living off its reputation in recent years, and maybe that's part of the problem.

Hoosiers

Coach: Bob Knight (681-240, 29 years; 763-290 overall, 35 years; 41-20 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 20-9. Big Ten: 10-6/5th. Lost to Pepperdine in NCAA East first round.

Last league title: 1993.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1985.

Site: Bloomington, Ind.

Website: www.athletics.indiana.edu

Home court: Assembly Hall (17,357).

*1999-2000 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Tom Coverdale	6-2/185	So.	1.0	1.0	0.7	37.5	50.0	60.0
11	G	Dane Fife*	6-4/190	Jr.	4.9	3.0	2.0	45.5	77.8	22.7
53	F	Tom Geyer	6-8/230	Jr.	1.2	1.0	0.2	30.0	—	0.0
35	F/C	Kirk Haston*	6-10/230	Jr.	15.3	8.3	1.4	49.6	73.0	0.0
32	G/F	Kyle Hornsby	6-5/205	So.	3.4	2.1	0.9	45.8	70.4	34.6
2	F	Jared Jeffries	6-9/215	Fr.	Indiana Mr. Basketball was recruiting coup.					
5	C/F	George Leach	6-11/220	Fr.	Academic troubles in 1999-2000.					
4	G	A.J. Moyer	6-5/215	Fr.	One of top SG in recruiting Class of 2000.					
50	F	Jeffrey Newton	6-9/215	So.	6.8	3.8	1.0	46.0	53.8	100.0
43	F	Jarad Odle	6-8/210	Jr.	2.9	2.3	0.5	44.9	68.2	0.0
20	G	Andre Owens	6-2/210	Fr.	Looking at him to possibly help Fife at PG.					
33	F	Mike Roberts	6-9/190	Fr.	At New Hampshire prep school last year.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	A.J. Guyton*	6-1/175	19.7	2.8	2.3	45.9	78.9	41.9
G	Luke Jimenez	6-3/195	2.4	1.4	1.6	35.7	85.7	29.3
G	Michael Lewis*	6-1/180	10.3	3.9	5.3	51.9	77.4	37.9
F	Larry Richardson	6-8/220	5.6	3.6	0.2	52.1	52.9	—
F	Lynn Washington*	6-7/225	6.9	4.8	0.9	55.3	68.8	—

Schedule

N13-24 Pepperdine*	D22 Kentucky**	J27 at Iowa	F28 Minnesota
N29 at Indiana State	D28-29 Hoosier Classic	J31 at Ohio State	M3 at Purdue
D2 Southern Illinois	J4 at Wisconsin	F3 at Penn State	*Preseason NIT
D5 at Notre Dame	J7 Michigan State	F11 Michigan	**Louisville
D8-9 Indiana Classic	J9 at Michigan	F14 Northwestern	
D16 UNC-Charlotte	J17 Penn State	F17 Illinois	
D18 Missouri	J20 at Minnesota	F20 at Michigan State	
	J23 Purdue	F24 Wisconsin	

6. Michigan

NATIONAL RANK
40

FRONT COURT: Sophomore LaVell Blanchard is an All-American in waiting. Senior Josh Asselin, at 6-11, 230, has pro potential. Junior wing Leon Jones is back, but 6-6 freshman Bernard Robinson could swoop in and steal minutes. Brandon Smith, who started 10 games, left school for personal reasons.

BACK COURT: The team played without Jamal Crawford for the second half of last season, so his absence won't be a shock to the system. Crawford was the eighth pick overall in the NBA draft and was traded to Chicago, where it took him little more than a month to get into a shouting match with his coach, Tim Floyd. Why isn't this a big surprise? That said, Michigan was on pace to be much better without him until sophomore starter Kevin Gaines was booted from the team in September. Next in line to run the point may be 5-3 freshman Avery Queen, but Queen and Robinson were both involved in the incident that led to Gaines' dismissal, and both were placed on probation by the school.

KEY NEWCOMER: This largely depends on the status of Queen and Robinson. Another big question, and we do mean big, is behemoth Josh Moore, who has Shaq's size, if nothing else.

STRATEGY: Survive the first six league games by any means possible. After opening at Purdue, the Wolverines host Indiana before traveling to Illinois, Ohio State and Iowa. Then conference favorite Illinois rolls into Crisler. With four of their first five league games on the road, at least Michigan will be battle-hardened by the second half. Either that or emotionally shot. Brian Ellerbe lets his players be loose (75.5 ppg, third in the Big Ten). They'll have to stay loose because the road could get bumpy.

Wolverines

Coach: Brian Ellerbe (52-42, 3 years; 86-89 overall, 6 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-14. Big Ten: 6-10/T7th. Lost to Notre Dame in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1986.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.

Home court: Crisler Arena (13,562).

Website: www.mgoblue.com

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
52	F	Rotolu Adebiji	6-5/210	Jr.	Walk-on is in his second year with squad.					
25	F/C	Josh Asselin*	6-11/230	Sr.	8.6	5.3	0.4	59.4	62.1	—
30	F	LaVell Blanchard*	6-7/205	So.	14.4	7.9	1.5	44.8	82.7	36.3
22	F	Herb Gibson	6-5/205	Jr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	—	—	—
12	G	Mike Gottfredson	5-11/175	Sr.	Transfer is in first year as a walk-on.					
23	G	Gavin Groninger*	6-5/190	So.	7.1	1.5	1.3	38.5	68.0	37.5
	G	Ramal Hunter	6-1/160	Jr.	Walk-on entering his third year on squad.					
0	G	Leon Jones	6-4/195	Jr.	8.7	2.7	1.8	41.3	60.2	39.8
34	C	Josh Moore	7-2/315	Fr.	Finally ready after two years not playing.					
1	G	Avery Queen	5-3/150	Fr.	One of smallest in D-I. Quick with ball.					
21	F	Bernard Robinson	6-6/185	Fr.	Could start at SF and add some scoring.					
3	G	Maurice Searight	6-2/205	Fr.	Might be best incoming athlete in Big Ten.					
45	C/F	Chris Young	6-9/220	So.	4.7	3.7	0.1	63.8	67.6	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jamal Crawford*	6-6/190	16.6	2.8	4.5	41.2	78.4	32.7
G	Kevin Gaines*	6-4/180	11.7	3.8	4.6	Dismissed in September.		
B	Brandon Smith	6-7/200	7.9	3.9	1.8	Transferred.		
C	Peter Vignier	6-11/255	4.8	4.1	0.6	59.8	53.5	—

Schedule

N17 at Oakland	D23 Morris Brown	J25 Illinois	F24 Purdue
N21 Western Michigan	D27 Towson	J27 at Northwestern	F28 Northwestern
N25 Wagner	D30 Eastern Michigan	J30 Michigan State	M3 at Michigan State
N28 Wake Forest	J3 at Purdue	F3 Wisconsin	
D-23 BB&T Classic	J9 Indiana	F7 at Penn State	
D9 at Duke	J13 at Illinois	F11 at Indiana	
D13 Bowling Green	J18 at Ohio State	F14 Iowa	
	J20 at Iowa	F17 Minnesota	

7. Penn State

NATIONAL RANK
46

FRONT COURT: Jarrett Stephens was Penn State's first consensus first-team all-Big Ten player. His league-leading 19 double-doubles will be impossible to replace. Gyasi Cline-Heard is the leading returning rebounder (5.5 rpg), but he'll have to pick up his game.

Although he showed new signs of life in the NIT, there were rumors Cline-Heard wouldn't be back. Coach Jerry Dunn quickly dispelled them. Who'll join him on the painfully thin, rebound-deprived front line? Junior Tyler Smith, redshirt freshman Ndu Egekeze and newcomer Jamaal Tate are candidates.

BACK COURT: Joe Crispin and Titus Ivory will provide instant offense and instant defense, respectively. Though second in the league in scoring, Crispin also ranked high among Big Ten assist leaders. That said, he nearly rivals Cory Bradford of Illinois in his zest to take the big (and little) shot. Brother Jon will see plenty of time, probably joining the other two in the starting lineup.

KEY NEWCOMER: Some critics believe it was a mistake to red-shirt Egekeze, a 6-7 power forward. A fine student, Egekeze, at the very least, lifts the team GPA. Tate, a 6-5 wing, could help.

STRATEGY: With the Crispins and Ivory doing most of the scoring, this is the all-guards, all-the-time offense. If there's a crack of daylight, the ball's going up. You would never call the Lions a running team, but with Crispin the Elder on the floor, there's no need for a shot clock. Still, whatever Penn State did at the end of last season, they should have bottled for 2000-01. The Lions beat Michigan and stunned No. 4 Ohio State in the Big Ten tourney to wangle a postseason invite and possibly save Dunn's job. They continued to roll in the NIT, placing third.

Nittany Lions

Coach: Jerry Dunn (82-67, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-16. Big Ten: 5-11/9th. Beat North Carolina State in NIT third-place game.

Last league title: 1991.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: State College, Pa.

Home court: Bryce Jordan Center (15,261).

Website: www.psu.edu/sports

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
42	C/F	Marcus Banta	6-10/230	So.	0.8	0.5	0.1	52.2	0.0	—
21	F	Stephan Bekale	6-9/230	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
13	G	Sharif Chambliss	6-1/175	Fr.	Hot outside shooter on solid perimeter team.					
23	F	Gyasi Cline-Heard	6-8/230	Sr.	6.7	5.5	1.1	49.4	45.9	0.0
3	G	Joe Crispin*	6-0/185	Sr.	18.5	3.3	5.1	38.5	89.2	34.6
5	G	Jon Crispin*	6-2/195	So.	9.3	2.0	1.9	40.7	75.0	0.0
44	F	Ndu Egekeze	6-7/220	Fr.	Big things expected inside from this redshirt.					
52	C	Jarad Houston	7-0/215	Jr.	Transferred from William and Mary.					
33	G	Titus Ivory*	6-4/210	Sr.	12.7	3.8	3.8	37.8	81.7	33.9
4	G	Ken Krimmel	6-2/180	Jr.	0.9	0.4	0.4	33.3	100.0	0.0
35	F	Tyler Smith*	6-8/230	Jr.	2.9	2.8	0.7	45.0	51.5	46.4
1	G/F	Jamaal Tate	6-5/200	Fr.	Versatile, talented, only true 3 on the roster.					
34	F	B.J. Vossekuil	6-9/200	So.	0.4	0.2	0.1	40.0	50.0	25.0
10	G	Brandon Watkins	6-0/170	So.	2.1	0.7	0.9	31.9	66.7	23.3
45	C	Scott Witkowski	7-0/290	Sr.	0.2	0.7	0.1	22.2	0.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Carl Jackson	6-9/247	2.5	1.9	0.1	48.4	56.3	—
F	Jarrett Stephens*	6-7/255	18.8	10.5	1.4	56.6	69.8	29.4

Schedule

N22 Loyola (Md.)	D22 Bucknell	J20 at Illinois	F24 Michigan State
N25 at Kentucky	D27-28 ECAC Hol. Fest.	J27 at Wisconsin	F27 at Iowa
N27 at Yale	J3 at Michigan State	J31 Illinois	M3 Ohio State
N29 at NC State	J6 Iowa	F3 Indiana	
D2 Pennsylvania	J10 at Ohio State	F7 Michigan	
D6 Pittsburgh	J13 Northwestern	F14 at Minnesota	
D9 Temple	J17 at Indiana	F17 Purdue	
		F21 at Northwestern	

8. Purdue

NATIONAL RANK

62

FRONT COURT: Brian Cardinal is gone. Mike Robinson is gone. Greg McQuay is gone. One, two, three, Purdue is out of the running for another Big Ten title. Boilermakers fans are looking at a front line that could feature Rodney Smith, John Allison and freshman

Brett Buscher. Not to alarm anyone in Boilerville, but that's 7.7 points and 4.4 rebounds per game returning up front.

BACK COURT: Point guard Carson Cunningham is the only returning starter from a surprise team that finished third in the Big Ten. Like Cardinal and Robinson, Jaraan Cornell finished in the top 20 on Purdue's career scoring list. And like the other two, he's gone as well. Unless one of the newcomers can beat him out, pencil Maynard Lewis into the off-guard slot.

KEY NEWCOMER: Some observers call Buscher a more athletic version of Cardinal, a second-round pick of the Pistons. Before we elevate Buscher to first-round status, however, let's not forget that Cardinal led teams to two Sweet 16s and one Elite Eight.

STRATEGY: Let Gene Keady be Keady and wait for the results. Every time you think his team is going to take the year off, it surprises the heck out of you. Last season, without a surplus of speed and quickness, the theme was "What's the rush?" and Purdue led the league in turnover margin. Without an infusion of athletes this year, look for the same prudent approach. Three Division I transfers join the squad—Joe Marshall from Mississippi State, Travis Best from Louisville and Willie Deane from Boston College. But if this team were coached by anyone else, prognosticators would be spreading doom and gloom. With Keady in charge, though, a winning season is always a possibility.

Boilermakers

Coach: Gene Keady (439-191, 20 years; 478-211 overall, 22 years; 18-17 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 24-10. Big Ten: 12-4/3rd. Lost to Wisconsin in NCAA West final.

Last league title: 1996.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1992.

Site: West Lafayette, Ind.

Website: www.purduesports.com

Home court: Mackey Arena (14,123).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
54	C	John Allison	6-10/235	Jr.	2.6	1.2	0.2	59.6	72.7	—
25	G	Travis Best	6-1/180	Jr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	F	Brett Buscher	6-8/227	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
43	G	C. Cunningham*	6-1/178	Sr.	11.0	1.9	4.1	42.1	80.7	39.8
0	G	Willy Deane	6-1/190	So.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	G	Andrew Ford	6-2/188	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
34	C	Kevin Garrity	6-11/255	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	G	Maynard Lewis	6-1/177	Jr.	6.0	2.6	1.2	40.8	67.9	30.9
20	G	Kenny Lowe	6-3/196	So.	1.7	0.4	0.5	38.1	69.6	37.5
15	G	Joe Marshall	6-2/194	Jr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	G	Austin Parkinson	6-0/177	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
31	F	Rodney Smith	6-6/232	Jr.	5.1	3.2	0.9	45.4	71.2	42.9
21	F	Adam Wetzel	6-9/245	So.	1.5	1.5	0.1	53.6	50.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Brian Cardinal*	6-8/230	13.9	6.3	2.2	41.1	76.9	33.9
G	Jaraan Cornell*	6-3/200	12.5	4.3	2.2	37.1	64.5	32.0
F	Mike Robinson*	6-6/210	11.8	6.2	2.2	51.6	64.9	0.0
C	Greg McQuay*	6-7/215	8.3	5.5	0.3	52.7	50.4	0.0

Schedule

N21 Central Michigan	D27 at Akron	J20 Northwestern	F20 at Iowa
N25 Arizona*	D30 UCLA	J23 at Indiana	F24 at Michigan
N29 at Virginia	J3 Michigan	J27 Minnesota	M3 Indiana
D2 Appalachian State	J6 at Northwestern	F4 at Michigan State	*Indianapolis
D8-9 Boilermaker Invit.	J10 Wisconsin	F7 at Wisconsin	
D16 Valparaiso*	J13 Iowa	F10 Illinois	
D18 Santa Clara	J17 at Minnesota	F14 Ohio State	
		F17 at Penn State	

9. Ohio State

NATIONAL RANK

82

FRONT COURT: Thank goodness for Ken Johnson. And the NCAA, which granted the record-breaking shot blocker an extra year of eligibility. Johnson was diagnosed with a learning disability early in his college career but completed 75 percent of his degree

before the 2000-01 season. Based on that, the NCAA ruled that Johnson could use the year he lost after failing to meet academic requirements as a freshman. Losing all-Big Ten players Michael Redd, Scoonie Penn and George Reese was painful enough. Losing the league's defensive player of the year and the nation's leading shot blocker as well might have sent coach Jim O'Brien over the edge. But who will play beside him? Freshman Zack Williams could step in for Reese. If a newcomer doesn't, Slobodan Ockoljic could claim a starting job.

BACK COURT: O'Brien loses two NBA draft choices in Penn and Redd, who left early. The backcourt goes from one of the best in the nation to one of the most unknown. Junior Brian Brown is the only returning starter. He'll likely pair with sophomore point guard Brent Darby, a 47 percent 3-point shooter last season. Junior Doylan Robinson could join them in a three-guard look.

KEY NEWCOMER: Becoming eligible after sitting out a year is transfer Sean Connolly, a 3-point specialist who started every game for Providence two years ago. He'll have three years left.

STRATEGY: The Scoonie-less Buckeyes won't be screaming down the court at breakneck speed. They won't be winning 50 of 65 games in two years the way they did with Penn. But don't forget, O'Brien's first team finished last. His second team made the Final Four. It's not as if he hasn't taken this ride before.

Buckeyes

Coach: Jim O'Brien (58-28, 3 years; 293-255 overall, 17 years; 10-5 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-7. Big Ten: 13-3/1st. Lost to Miami (Fla.) in NCAA South second round.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Columbus, Ohio.

Website: www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

Home court: Value City Arena (19,500).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
13	G	Brian Brown*	6-3/190	Jr.	8.9	4.1	2.4	51.3	81.9	32.7
3	G	Sean Connolly	6-4/190	So.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	G	Brent Darby	6-0/200	So.	2.8	0.5	0.7	39.0	70.0	47.1
43	F	Will Dudley	6-8/230	Jr.	2.3	2.6	0.1	58.8	32.1	—
32	C	Ken Johnson*	6-11/235	Sr.	7.8	6.1	0.3	55.3	63.5	—
54	C	Matt Marinichick	6-10/240	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
44	F	Tim Martin	6-6/240	Jr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
34	F	Slobodan Ockoljic	6-8/210	So.	2.7	2.3	0.6	36.3	65.4	18.8
14	C	Velimir Radinovic	6-11/230	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	G	Doylan Robinson	6-4/210	Jr.	9.0	5.0	1.0	100.0	—	100.0
21	G	Slobodan Savovic	6-5/230	Jr.	2.3	1.2	1.1	37.9	70.0	30.4
33	F	Zack Williams	6-8/230	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Scoonie Penn*	5-10/185	15.6	4.4	4.3	38.6	75.5	31.3
G	Michael Redd*	6-6/205	17.3	6.5	2.1	43.6	77.6	31.5
F	George Reese*	6-7/230	13.2	5.7	1.2	52.4	67.5	—

Schedule

N23-25 Alaska Shootout	D30 Coppin State	J27 Michigan State	F24 at Northwestern
D7 Denver	J3 Northwestern	J31 Indiana	M3 at Penn State
D10 Massachusetts	J6 at Illinois	F3 at Minnesota	
D13 St. John's	J10 Penn State	F7 at Iowa	
D16 Morehead State	J13 Minnesota	F10 Wisconsin	
D20 Robert Morris	J18 Michigan	F14 at Purdue	
D23 Kansas	J21 at Michigan State	F17 at Alabama	
	J24 at Wisconsin	F22 Illinois	

10. Minnesota

NATIONAL RANK

113

FRONTCOURT: Joel Przybilla wasn't the only big man to leave the Gophers. Center Kyle Sanden took a medical waiver this summer, leaving the team with even less of an inside game than it had after Przybilla bolted midway through the season. Who will play center? More often than not, nobody. Junior Dusty Rychart, a surprise as a former walk-on, is the returning leading scorer and rebounder. Mike Bauer, who took a medical redshirt last year, is athletic with a nice shooting touch. He could turn into a fine Big Ten player. Travarus Bennett, a 6-7, 205-pound junior college transfer, will have every opportunity to win a job. He is a strong defender who can play just about anywhere, which is good because he probably will.

BACKCOURT: This is a solid, if not spectacular group. Senior Terrance Simmons was the closest thing to an all-conference player by the end of the season. Also back is sophomore Kevin Burleson, who started 23 games and led the team in 3-point field goals and free-throw percentage. It will be interesting to see what transfer point guard Kerwin Fleming brings to the mix.

KEY NEWCOMER: A year ago, TSN ranked Fleming the top JC point guard in the country. He responded by averaging 16.2 points, 9.1 assists and 3.4 steals per game and helping Kennedy-King of Chicago to fourth place in the national JC tournament.

STRATEGY: The Gophers will continue to get up and down the court. Will the end result be enough points to win many games? The prospects remain doubtful. Thanks to sanctions handed down in the great term-paper scandal, the Gophers will have only 10 players on scholarship.

Golden Gophers

Coach: Dan Monson (12-16, 1 year; 64-33 overall, 3 years; 3-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 12-16. Big Ten: 4-12/10th.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Minneapolis.

Home court: Williams Arena (14,625).

Website: www.gophersports.com

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter				
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG% FT% 3%
41	F	Mike Bauer	6-8/205	Fr.	5.4	3.6	0.4	58.8 33.3 83.3
21	F	Tavarus Bennett	6-7/205	Jr.	Versatile wing performer who plays good D.			
1	F	J. Bickerstaff*	6-6/190	Jr.	7.7	5.4	2.3	55.3 44.1 50.0
12	G	Kevin Burleson*	6-3/190	So.	8.8	6.0	2.6	36.5 87.0 32.4
15	G	Kerwin Fleming	6-3/180	Jr.	JC transfer adds size, quickness at PG.			
42	C	Jeff Hagen	6-11/250	Fr.	Could use his size, but he won't be ready.			
11	G	Mitch Ohnstad	6-2/175	Sr.	7.8	2.0	2.2	38.5 73.8 21.5
45	F	Dusty Rychart*	6-7/210	Jr.	11.8	7.9	1.5	51.4 71.4 42.9
34	G/F	Shane Schilling	6-6/200	So.	6.2	1.9	1.0	38.5 78.4 26.7
23	G	Terrance Simmons*	6-3/185	Sr.	11.1	2.9	4.1	40.2 69.7 32.1
33	C	Ryan Wildenborg	6-11/260	So.	1.7	1.8	0.2	40.0 60.0 —

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Joel Przybilla*	7-1/260	14.2	8.4	2.4	61.3	49.5	—
C	Kyle Sanden	6-11/265	5.6	2.0	0.6	45.5	87.5	20.0

Schedule

N17 UNC Greensboro	D12 Louisiana Tech	J20 Indiana	F17 at Michigan
N19 Georgia	D22 Dartmouth	J24 Iowa	F21 at Wisconsin
N24-26 Hawaii Pac. Cl.	D28 Nebraska	J27 at Purdue	F28 at Indiana
N28 at Florida State	D30 Centenary	J31 at Iowa	M3 Illinois
D4 Morris Brown	J3 at Illinois	F3 Ohio State	
D7 at Marquette	J6 Wisconsin	F6 at Northwestern	
D9 Bethune Cookman	J13 at Ohio State	F10 Michigan State	
	J17 Purdue	F14 Penn State	

11. Northwestern

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Barring another mass defection following the oddly timed departure of coach Kevin O'Neill on September 1, Tavaras Hardy and Winston Blake return at forward, and Aaron Jennings has first crack at center. Smelling opportunity, freshmen

Casey Cortez, Harry Good and Patrick Towne signed in the spring and will all push for playing time right away.

BACKCOURT: Ben Johnson, who shot only 35 percent from the field but is the team's top returning scorer, and Collier Drayton will try to hold their ground. But rookies Jitum Young, Ed McCants and Andrew Long might have something to say about that.

KEY NEWCOMER: Key is the proper adjective when it comes to the 6-2 Young, the first highly regarded Chicago prep player to sign with NU since Eric Simpson did in '90. The program hopes that Young, an all-state selection, will get the pipeline going.

STRATEGY: The team will switch from O'Neill's motion offense to one of backdoor cuts and bounce passes. New coach Bill Carmody, a disciple of legendary Princeton coach Pete Carril, leaves one strong academic institution for another. But there's one big difference—at Princeton, Carmody was coaching against other nonscholarship teams. At NU, one of the most thankless major D-I jobs, he must face schools with less stringent academic standards and much higher—and far more physical—basketball standards. O'Neill, in his three seasons, compiled a 30-56 record with one NIT visit. He then lost six players in six months after last season ended. The team's second-leading scorer, Steve Lepore, transferred. Adam Robinson, David Newman and Brody Deren, who together started a bunch of games, bolted. Still, four starters return, but is that good or bad?

Wildcats

Coach: Bill Carmody (first year; 92-25, 4 years overall; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 5-25. Big Ten: 0-16/11th.

Last league title: 1933 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Evanston, Ill.

Home court: Welsh-Ryan Arena (8,117).

Website: www.nusports.com

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter				
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG% FT% 3%
3	F	Winston Blake	6-5/191	So.	3.9	1.1	0.6	29.8 75.9 25.8
30	G	Jason Burke	6-7/189	So.	2.4	1.3	1.0	31.9 64.3 28.6
42	F	Casey Cortez	6-8/212	Fr.	Inside-out post player, needs more strength.			
32	G	Collier Drayton*	6-2/189	Jr.	3.2	3.2	2.0	40.3 55.0 45.8
50	F/C	Harry Good	6-9/225	Fr.	Six HS teammates, all Class of 2000, in D-1.			
33	F	Tavaras Hardy*	6-8/223	Jr.	8.1	5.7	1.3	42.9 64.2 0.0
10	G	Langston Hughes	5-11/186	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	— — —
55	C	Aaron Jennings*	6-11/200	So.	6.1	3.6	0.5	45.8 72.2 0.0
5	G	Ben Johnson*	6-2/180	So.	11.6	2.9	2.4	35.4 83.5 34.9
23	G	Andrew Long	6-2/180	Fr.	A shooter O'Neill hopes will surprise many.			
44	G/F	Ed McCants	6-5/180	Fr.	Ohio state Div. IV player of year (30.5 ppg).			
43	F	Patrick Towne	6-7/220	Fr.	Could add a physical, athletic presence.			
25	G	Jitum Young	6-2/185	Fr.	True frosh PG allows Johnson to move to SG.			

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Brody Deren	6-7/223	Transferred to Creighton.					
F	Steve Lepore*	6-5/200	Transferred to Wake Forest.					
G	David Newman	5-11/165	Transferred to Drake.					

Schedule

N18 Ark.-Little Rock	D16 at Pepperdine	J20 at Purdue	F18 at Wisconsin
N22 Md.-Eastern Shore	D20-22 San Juan Shoot.	J24 Michigan State	F21 Penn State
N25 Vermont	D27 USC	J27 Michigan	F24 Ohio State
N28 at Clemson	J3 at Ohio State	J31 Buffalo	F28 at Michigan
D2 Miss. Valley St.	J6 Purdue	F3 at Illinois	
D10 at La Salle	J10 at Michigan State	F6 Minnesota	
D13 St. Peter's	J13 at Penn State	F10 Iowa	
	J17 Illinois	F14 at Indiana	

Southeastern

ASCENDING: Alabama and South Carolina. Crimson Tide coach Mark Gottfried is collecting talent, justifying his alma mater's decision to hire him two years ago. Gerald Wallace is the most heralded newcomer in the league and joins Rod Grizzard, one of the better freshmen last

year. The return of senior center Jeremy Hays from ACL surgery makes Alabama a threat to win the West a year after going 13-16. After two down years, South Carolina is on the road back in the East. The addition of homegrown freshman Rolando Howell will help. It'll be difficult to crack the top three of Tennessee, Kentucky and Florida, but nobody will look forward to playing the Gamecocks.

DESCENDING: LSU and Auburn. With Stromile Swift and Jabari Smith gone to the NBA, there's no way John Brady's Tigers can duplicate last year's 28-6 record and share of the SEC title.

Auburn won 53 games the past two years but returns only one starter, Scott Pohlman. Coach Cliff Ellis has some capable replacements, but it will be too hard to match the chemistry of last year's veterans.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Dan Langhi, Vanderbilt. No player meant more to his team last year than Langhi, who got his 22.2 points a game inside and outside as the defense dictated. Without him, Vanderbilt will have to fight to rise above ordinary. And there's no one player at Vandy who can fill Langhi's sneakers because of his versatility. Not many 6-11 guys can create the mismatches Langhi did. The Commodores will be a very different team without him.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Justin Hamilton, Florida. Overshadowed by all those prep All-Americans in Gainesville,



UNSUNG FORCE: Hamilton doesn't get as much attention as some of the other Gators, but he is the most athletic player in their backcourt and their best defender.

Hamilton had a terrific freshman year for the Gators. He's the most athletic of Florida's celebrated backcourt players and the most able defender. That makes him valuable because Teddy Dupay and Brett Nelson aren't exactly stoppers. A 38-inch vertical leap makes Hamilton a good finisher and a factor on the offensive glass.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Charles Hathaway, Tennessee. He came to Tennessee with McDonald's All-American credentials and an NBA body. Now a fifth-year senior, Hathaway hasn't become the offensive force Vols fans have expected, averaging 4.7 points over his career. A serious blood-clot situation three years ago threw Hathaway off track. To his credit, he has graciously adopted a defensive-

By MIKE STRANGE

Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel

BOB HOLT

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Predictions

East Division

1. Tennessee*
2. Kentucky*
3. Florida*
4. South Carolina
5. Vanderbilt
6. Georgia

West Division

1. Alabama*
2. Arkansas*
3. Mississippi State
4. Auburn
5. LSU
6. Mississippi

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-SEC

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tony Harris, Tennessee	6-0	165	Sr.
G	Rod Grizzard, Alabama	6-8	205	So.
G/F	Joe Johnson, Arkansas	6-9	225	So.
F	Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee	6-7	210	Jr.
C	Udonis Haslem, Florida	6-7	260	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brett Nelson, Florida	6-3	173	So.
G	Keith Bogans, Kentucky	6-5	205	So.
F	Tayshaun Prince, Kentucky	6-9	215	So.
F	Tang Hamilton, Mississippi St.	6-7	215	Sr.
C	Robert Jackson, Mississippi St.	6-7	245	Jr.

Player of the Year

Joe Johnson, G/F, Arkansas

Newcomer of the Year

Gerald Wallace, F, Alabama

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Terrance Meade, Alabama

Best rebounder: Anthony Evans, Georgia

Best playmaker: Tarik London, Alabama

Best defender: Rahim Lockhart, Mississippi

Best leaper: Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee

Best under 6-0: Tony Harris, Tennessee.

(he's listed at 6-0, but isn't)

Best over 7-0: Robb Dryden, Georgia (by default)

Most versatile: Chuck Eidson, South Carolina

Most flamboyant: Ron Slay, Tennessee

Best NBA prospect: Joe Johnson, Arkansas

specialist role.

COACH(ES) ON THE HOT SEAT: Nobody is in danger of being run out of town, but three coaches feeling the most heat are Kentucky's Tubby Smith, Tennessee's Jerry Green and Georgia's Jim Harrick. At Kentucky, there's always pressure, not to win but to dominate. The sub-par (for Kentucky) recruiting class has added pressure on Smith to lasso some blue-chippers this time out. Tennessee is loaded with talent, experience and depth and has no excuses. Vols fans, accustomed to post-season glory from their football and women's basketball programs, are impatient to see men's hoops among the chosen few. As for Harrick, he needs to prove he can indeed stabilize a floundering program. So far, he's running a fire drill.

BEST BETS: Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, Alabama and Arkansas will be dancing. Auburn, South Carolina, Mississippi State and LSU will hope to crash through the bubble. ... Vanderbilt will win the recruiting battle for 6-10 blue-chipper David Harrison. Duh. His dad, Dennis, is an assistant football coach at Vandy. ... A half-dozen SEC coaches will get (or already are) antsy about John Calipari's recruiting impact at Memphis.

ODDS AND ENDS: Alabama hired former Memphis interim head coach Johnny Jones to fill the vacancy of assistant Robert "Rah Rah" Scott, who died of stomach cancer on May 10. ... Florida athletic director Jeremy

Foley is committed to keeping Billy Donovan. Not only has Donovan joined Steve Spurrier in the \$1 million-plus pay bracket, the Gators are getting a new \$10 million practice facility. ... Eddie Fogler didn't change Carolinas over the summer, staying put in Columbia when the vacancy in Chapel Hill came up. But he has changed footwear. The Gamecocks have shed Converse to join the Nike fold. ... When Nolan Richardson looks down the Arkansas bench, he won't find a familiar chip off the old block any more. Nolan III has flown the nest to head his own program at Tennessee State. ... The curious transfer of the year is Desmond Allison. After getting the boot at Kentucky following a DUI incident, Allison landed at tiny Martin Methodist in Pulaski, Tenn. The connection? Martin Methodist coach Charles Benson is the son of Allison's former traveling squad coach. ... Georgia fans will be seeing double next year. Twins Jarvis and Josh Hayes both transferred from Western Carolina and will sit out this year. Jarvis (17 ppg) was the Southern Conference freshman of the year. ... The SEC is 11-1 in first-round NCAA games the past two years. ... No other league can match the SEC's three active coaches with NCAA titles: Nolan Richardson (Arkansas, '94), Tubby Smith (Kentucky, '98) and Jim Harrick (UCLA, '95). ... Florida, South Carolina and LSU are hoping August tours of Europe result in a valuable head start to the season.



Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
D.A. Layne	Georgia	22.1
Vincent Yarbrough	Tennessee	14.8
Anthony Evans	Georgia	14.7
Tony Harris	Tennessee	14.6
Tang Hamilton	Mississippi St.	14.4

Name	School	RPG
Anthony Evans	Georgia	8.7
Rahim Lockhart	Mississippi	8.4
Shon Coleman	Georgia	8.2
Erwin Dudley	Alabama	8.1
Robert Jackson	Mississippi St.	7.0

Name	School	APG
Aaron Lucas	South Carolina	4.4
Torris Bright	LSU	4.3
Tony Harris	Tennessee	4.1
Chuck Eidson	South Carolina	4.0
Tarik London	Alabama	3.8

Name	School	FG%
Anthony Evans	Georgia	58.2
Rahim Lockhart	Mississippi	58.1
Tang Hamilton	Mississippi St.	47.1
Vincent Yarbrough	Tennessee	46.7
D.A. Layne	Georgia	40.1

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
East	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Tennessee	12	4	26	7	15	1	11	6
Kentucky	12	4	23	10	14	0	10	9
Florida	12	4	29	8	15	1	8	13
Vanderbilt	8	8	19	11	14	4	10	2
South Carolina	5	11	15	17	10	6	10	5
Georgia	3	13	10	20	7	6	12	5
West	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
LSU	12	4	28	6	15	1	8	10
Auburn	9	7	24	10	14	1	8	10
Arkansas	7	9	19	15	9	5	10	10
Alabama	6	10	13	16	11	3	10	5
Mississippi State	5	11	14	16	10	4	9	7
Mississippi	5	11	19	14	15	3	11	4

Ranking the Recruiting

- Alabama: Gerald Wallace is SEC's top-ranked newcomer.
- Kentucky: Landing Jason Parker vaults this class way up. Cliff Hawkins is future PG.
- Auburn: Offered immediate playing time and Abdou Diame and Brandon Robinson took it.
- Vanderbilt: Brendan Pavlich's class must help quickly. Matt Freije may be the sleeper.
- Mississippi State: Mario Austin was originally off to Alabama. Now he'll be a thorn in its side.
- Florida: Orien Greene will help anywhere on the perimeter.
- Mississippi: Justin Reed should have an impact. JC transfers Derrick Allen and David Sanders add depth.
- South Carolina: Rolando Howell was a must-get but already has been suspended. G Michael Boynton is a future starter.
- Tennessee: Added two big men from Houston, with Andy Ikeakor to provide post depth.
- LSU: G JueMichael Young was a quality addition, but Tigers badly need a big man.
- Georgia: Chris Daniels is a keeper. Rashad Wright inherits the point.
- Arkansas: F Michael Jones and JC G Jannero Pargo will give the Razorbacks depth.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Florida	37	48.0	71.0	36.3	39.2	16.5	9.9	3.8	16.4	83.8
Tennessee	33	45.0	68.3	36.1	39.8	14.6	8.8	5.9	15.7	79.7
LSU	34	48.7	64.3	35.1	40.4	14.8	9.2	5.3	17.4	75.8
Vanderbilt	30	45.7	73.2	36.6	33.8	15.3	7.2	2.1	14.7	74.8
Arkansas	34	42.9	60.4	35.1	34.1	34.0	11.2	3.5	14.5	74.4
Mississippi State	30	45.3	66.9	33.7	37.1	30.0	6.2	3.6	15.1	72.3
Alabama	29	42.9	71.0	34.4	38.8	29.0	6.3	4.1	16.7	72.2
Georgia	30	46.2	65.2	34.3	39.1	15.1	5.5	3.3	18.8	71.6
Mississippi	33	44.2	64.9	33.3	37.5	13.8	7.5	3.8	16.5	71.4
Auburn	34	41.3	65.5	32.7	39.4	12.9	7.3	3.2	13.3	71.3
Kentucky	33	42.3	68.8	29.2	39.4	12.9	6.1	5.6	15.2	69.1
South Carolina	32	43.8	61.3	35.6	34.2	13.9	8.4	3.4	14.8	68.4

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
LSU	34	38.2	63.5	31.3	32.4	11.8	7.8	1.8	16.5	62.7
Kentucky	33	39.0	64.6	32.6	34.4	10.7	6.9	2.0	14.6	62.8
Auburn	34	41.0	68.5	31.7	35.5	11.5	5.6	3.3	16.4	64.4
South Carolina	32	43.1	52.7	36.3	34.8	14.3	6.5	3.1	16.2	67.2
Tennessee	33	40.5	66.8	31.9	37.2	12.2	7.6	3.2	17.8	67.8
Mississippi	33	43.3	66.0	32.2	33.6	12.2	8.0	3.4	15.8	68.8
Florida	37	42.0	63.9	32.8	34.0	13.3	7.0	3.5	19.5	68.9
Vanderbilt	30	44.2	64.2	31.9	34.8	12.9	7.1	3.7	15.9	69.7
Arkansas	34	42.7	68.1	36.1	40.4	13.2	6.3	2.9	21.2	69.8
Mississippi State	30	43.4	69.8	34.8	34.0	13.2	6.8	4.0	13.1	70.4
Alabama	29	42.7	66.1	32.9	36.2	13.3	8.9	3.6	15.0	72.4
Georgia	30	42.6	66.8	34.7	36.0	13.5	10.1	3.8	13.5	75.1

1. Tennessee

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N17 UT-Chattanooga
 N19 East Tennessee State
 N21 Wisconsin
 N27 Austin Peay
 N30 UNC-Asheville
 D2 at West Virginia
 D5 Memphis
 D7 Southern Methodist
 D15 at Middle Tennessee St.
 D19 Virginia*
 D22 at Syracuse
 D27-30 Rainbow Classic
 J6 at Auburn
 J9 Alabama
 J13 South Carolina
 J16 at Kentucky
 J20 Mississippi State
 J27 at Georgia
 J30 at Florida
 F3 Vanderbilt
 F7 at Arkansas
 F10 at Mississippi
 F14 Kentucky
 F18 Florida
 F21 Georgia
 F24 at Vanderbilt
 F27 at South Carolina
 M3 LSU
 *East Rutherford, N.J.

FRONTCOURT: If small forward Vincent Yarbrough improves as much as he did between his freshman and sophomore years, he'll be a high lottery pick next June. He has all the tools but still needs to take it to the rack more and avoid relying too much on his 3-point shot. In the paint, the Vols will miss departed senior C.J. Black, a defensive stopper who could add 12 to 15 points on a good night. Based on offensive production, the best combo for the coming season would be fifth-year senior Isiah Victor and sophomore Ron Slay. Victor, who is occasionally brilliant, is down to his last chance to prove he has the consistency to be an NBA forward. Slay generally backs up his showboating by getting the dirty work done. Charles Hathaway, another fifth-year senior, offers a big body on defense but little scoring. Nobody has a bigger upside than 6-10 sophomore Marcus Haislip, who has gotten stronger and may be ready to become a prime-time player. The only newcomer of note is freshman Andy Ikeakor, a post player who appears physically ready to earn minutes in the rotation.

BACKCOURT: Three years ago, Big Orange fans figured blue-chip signee Tony Harris would be in the NBA by now. Yet here he is back for his senior season. Abysmal postseason shooting has been his Achilles' heel, but in the big picture Harris brings a lot of sizzle to the Vols' offense.

Coach Jerry Green has to decide whether

Harris best fits at point guard or, if freed of playmaking duties, at shooting guard. Harris has a scorer's mentality and is the first to admit that, as a playmaker, he must remind himself to keep his teammates involved. There are all sorts of possible combinations, pairing Harris with steady Jon Higgins, slasher Harris Walker and bomber Terrence Woods. Higgins, who averaged 28 minutes a game as a freshman, makes a convincing case to play the point. He committed only one turnover in his final 192 minutes last season. The long-awaited addition of Jenis Grindstaff is another issue to be sorted out. Senior Del Baker has turned out to be a nice defensive sub who can guard the other team's shooting guard or small forward.

KEY NEWCOMER: Grindstaff is coming off a two-year layoff since he was an Atlantic 10 all-rookie pick at Virginia Tech. The combo-guard sat out a transfer year, then blew out a knee in the season-opener last year after being tabbed to start. In a best-case scenario, he adds savvy and mental toughness to the backcourt.

STRATEGY: Green believes in the Carolina system he absorbed during his days with best-buddy Roy Williams at Kansas. The Vols have the athletes and depth to play 94 feet, but Green presses judiciously since doing so tends to have a detrimental speed-up effect on the halfcourt offense. This team is blessed with talented individuals who sometimes struggle to keep free-lance tendencies in check. If Harris and Yarbrough show the maturity to walk that fine line, Tennessee can get to Minneapolis. If they don't, consider it a blown opportunity. Given personnel losses at Florida, Kentucky, LSU and Auburn, the Vols easily have the best arsenal returning in the SEC. But this team's legacy will be written in March. In each of Green's first three seasons, the Vols have advanced a notch up the postseason ladder. Last year, they were minutes away from the Elite Eight only to self-destruct and let North Carolina off the hook. This year, there are no excuses.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

INSIDE STORY: Yarbrough, who led the Vols in scoring and rebounding last season, has all the tools, but the team needs him to drive more and rely less on his 3-point shot.

DATA Volunteers

Coach: Jerry Green (67-25, 3 years; 289-202 overall, 17 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 26-7. SEC East: 12-4/T1st. Lost to North Carolina in NCAA South second round.

Last league title: 2000 (tie/SEC East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Knoxville, Tenn.

Website: www.utsports.com

Home court: Thompson-Boling Arena (24,535).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	G	Del Baker	6-5/200	Sr.	3.5	1.1	1.0	41.5	41.2	28.7
33	C	Brandon Crump	6-10/210	Fr.	Played inside and on the perimeter in HS.					
2	G	Jenis Grindstaff	6-2/185	Jr.	2.0	2.0	3.0	11.1	0.0	0.0
12	F	Marcus Haislip	6-10/230	So.	4.4	1.8	0.0	59.1	56.4	52.9
14	G	Tony Harris*	6-0/165	Sr.	14.8	2.2	4.0	40.8	74.3	37.8
55	C	Charles Hathaway	6-10/265	Sr.	2.1	2.3	0.4	38.8	56.6	33.3
42	G	Jon Higgins*	6-3/190	So.	6.4	3.1	2.1	35.7	55.6	35.7
34	F	Andy Ikeakor	6-8/245	Fr.	Won three consecutive state titles in Texas.					
35	F	Ron Slay	6-8/225	So.	9.7	4.4	0.5	51.1	79.8	40.7
44	F	Isiah Victor*	6-9/220	Sr.	9.7	6.1	0.7	50.2	65.4	31.6
5	G	Harris Walker	6-1/170	So.	2.3	1.5	1.8	34.1	52.4	31.6
31	G	Terrence Woods	6-3/185	So.	3.4	1.0	0.6	47.1	66.7	40.6
22	F	Vincent Yarbrough*	6-7/210	Jr.	14.8	6.9	2.5	40.8	73.6	35.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	C.J. Black*	6-8/255	9.3	5.3	0.8	51.8	72.3	39.4
G	Vegas Davis	6-3/215	1.2	1.3	0.5	27.8	40.0	18.8

2. Kentucky

NATIONAL RANK

10

Schedule

N9-10 Coaches vs. Cancer Cl
N21 Jacksonville State*
N25 Penn State
D2 at North Carolina
D5 Eastern Kentucky
D9 at Georgia Tech
D16 at Michigan State
D22 Indiana**
D27 High Point
J2 at Louisville
J6 Georgia
J10 South Carolina
J13 Notre Dame
J16 Tennessee
J20 at Mississippi
J23 at Alabama
J27 Vanderbilt
J31 at Georgia
F3 at South Carolina
F6 Florida
F10 Mississippi State
F14 at Tennessee
F17 at Vanderbilt
F21 LSU
F25 at Arkansas
F28 Auburn
M4 at Florida
*Cincinnati
**Louisville

FRONT COURT: Marvin Stone didn't have the impact expected of a Parade and McDonald's All-American, but he'll get the chance to make up for lost time. With Jamaal Magloire gone to the NBA, Stone steps into the void and must transform from role player to a prime-timer. Magloire led the SEC in rebounding, was a defensive intimidator and managed to score 13 points a game almost as an afterthought. Replacing his production should not be minimized. He also was bulky and slow, which the offensive game plan had to account for. Stone moves better, has good hands—not of stone, thankfully—and can step away from the basket for a short jumper. He averaged only 13 minutes and 4.6 points a game last year and will need to double both figures. Jules Camara, Marquis Estill and the late-August addition of Jason Parker join Stone to create what could be a four-man rotation for two spots pending the outcome of Camara's September arrest on charges of drunken driving. With the loss of signee Michael Southall over the summer to off-the-court issues, the team certainly needs Camara, a 6-11 gazelle who has been inconsistent on offense but more than solid on defense. Estill sat out last year to rehab his knee. With Desmond Allison also booted from the program, Tayshaun Prince will spend more time at small forward. Long and lean, Prince, a potential All-SEC first-teamer (13.3 ppg last year), has a downside—he shot only 30.7 percent from 3-point range.

BACK COURT: The "help wanted" sign is out for shooters. Saul Smith and Keith Bogans return as the starters. Bogans was good for 12.5 points a game as a freshman, but his perimeter shooting was spotty at best. His sophomore season should show improvement across the board, and he could emerge as one of the SEC's best guards. Smith, the coach's son, never seems to satisfy Kentucky's demanding fans, primarily because he's not much of a scoring threat and his assist/turnover ratio isn't anything remarkable. But he is an intense defender. Freshman Cliff Hawkins arrives from vaunted Oak Hill Academy to push Smith. He's compared to former Wildcat point guard Wayne Turner, only with a jumper, and is a fierce on-ball defender. The worst 3-point shooting team in the SEC signed off-guard Gerald Fitch because of his stroke. He'll back Bogans. Backup point J.P. Blevins set the team's 3-point pace last year at a modest 35.8 percent.

KEY NEWCOMER: The importance of Parker's arrival seems to grow by the minute as off-court issues have taken a toll on the frontcourt. But Estill also is going to be very popular with fans. He shaved off a massive amount of weight and is down to 235. A high school knee injury is history and, at 6-9, he is showing moves that remind some of a young Jamal Mashburn. In other words, he can post up strong or step out and face the hoop.

STRATEGY: Tubby Smith teams always play tenacious defense. Kentucky ranked second in the SEC in scoring defense (62.8 points), field-goal defense (39 percent) and blocked shots (5.6 bpg). Some find Tubby Ball a little on the plodding side. But it's unreasonable to expect crowd-pleasing, fullcourt pressure when you have only nine bodies, as the Wildcats did at the end of last season. With reinforcements on hand, look for Smith to extend the defense. The larger issue will be how well the Wildcats improve their 3-point shooting from last year's 29.2 percent.



NO RESPECT: Smith started all but one game last season and led the Wildcats in assists, but poor shooting (27 percent from 3-point range) gave his critics plenty of ammunition.

DATA

Wildcats

Coach: Orlando "Tubby" Smith (86-23, 3 years; 210-85 overall, 9 years; 16-6 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '98).

1999-00 record: 23-10. SEC East: 12-4/T1st. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA Midwest second round.

Last league title: 2000 (tie/SEC East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.

Site: Lexington, Ky.

Website: www.ukathletics.com

Home court: Rupp Arena (23,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	J.P. Blevins	6-2/181	Jr.	4.2	1.2	1.3	38.8	76.0	35.8
10	G	Keith Bogans*	6-5/205	So.	12.5	3.6	1.7	40.7	64.4	29.3
40	F	Jules Camara	6-11/223	Jr.	7.2	4.6	0.9	48.1	67.9	16.7
14	G/F	Erik Daniels	6-7/195	Fr.	Wing was an All-State selection in Ohio.					
50	F	Marquis Estill	6-9/235	So.	Inside-out threat rehabbed knee last year.					
4	G	Gerald Fitch	6-3/185	Fr.	Improving team 3-pt. shooting is his goal.					
1	G	Cliff Hawkins	6-1/185	Fr.	Ballhawking defender will push Smith at PG.					
	F	Jason Parker	6-8/255	Fr.	North Carolina's loss is Kentucky's gain.					
21	G/F	Tayshaun Prince*	6-9/215	Jr.	13.3	6.0	1.8	42.3	70.5	30.7
33	G/F	Cory Sears	6-6/190	Fr.	Swingman with 3-point range.					
11	G	Saul Smith*	6-2/175	Sr.	6.6	2.8	3.5	33.7	74.7	27.0
24	F/C	Marvin Stone	6-10/248	So.	4.6	3.8	0.4	49.2	67.4	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Jamaal Magloire*	6-10/260	13.2	9.1	0.5	50.0	68.5	0.0
C	Desmond Allison*	6-5/214	7.8	3.8	2.4	42.2	77.9	33.3

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

3. Florida

NATIONAL RANK

12

Schedule

N17 at Florida State
N27 Florida Atlantic
D2 DePaul
D6 at Michigan State
D9 Rutgers
D10 FAMU
D16 Gonzaga*
D19 Bethune-Cookman
D23 American University
D28 at Tulane
D30 New Hampshire
J7 at South Carolina
J10 Mississippi State
J17 Georgia
J20 Vanderbilt
J24 at Auburn
J27 South Carolina
J30 Tennessee
F3 at Georgia
F6 at Kentucky
F10 Arkansas
F13 at LSU
F18 at Tennessee
F21 Mississippi
F24 Alabama
F28 at Vanderbilt
M4 Kentucky
* in Miami

FRONTCOURT: Take Mike Miller and Donnell Harvey out of the picture prematurely—as the NBA draft did—and most teams would be devastated. The Gators will clearly miss them, but Florida is fortunate to have proven commodities in Udonis Haslem and Brent Wright. When last seen, Haslem was dropping 27 points on Michigan State in the national title game. Though only 6-7, Haslem is a terrific post-up player, and the Gators do a good job moving the ball to isolate his wide body one-on-one in the paint. With rebounding demon Harvey gone, Wright should flourish as a senior. He led Florida in field-goal percentage (.570) in SEC play as a junior. His challenge is to stay physical on the boards. Senior Major Parker is the versatile Miller's heir apparent at small forward. Their games couldn't be more different. Parker, at 6-4, will face some height mismatches, but his forte is doing the dirty work on defense. Matt Bonner, who can nail the 3, will add scoring. He took awhile to get warmed up last season, but he shot 59.1 percent in six NCAA Tournament games. Freshman Bonell Colas is not Harvey's equal physically, but he knows where the basket is.

BACKCOURT: Say this for Florida: It has a dazzling array of options at the point. Teddy Dupay, Justin Hamilton and Brett Nelson each has and could continue to handle the job. Dupay is more comfortable at shooting guard; he's likely to settle

there. Hamilton started at the point the final eight games of his freshman season. He adds a physical dimension and defensive presence. That said, this is Nelson's job. The highly touted whiz from West Virginia hit his stride in the postseason, and there's no reason to think he won't pick up where he left off. He dished 29 assists with only 13 turnovers in eight postseason games, and he shot 51 percent from 3-point range over his last 11 games. Nelson should have a breakout sophomore year, after which he'll be tempted to follow Miller and Harvey to the NBA. Dupay remains one of the most dangerous streak shooters in the SEC, and Hamilton should emerge as an all-around combo guard. Florida must replace senior wing Kenyan Weaks, but the return of LaDarius Halton may balance the scales. Halton missed last season while recovering from knee surgery. It's not unreasonable to expect him to double his scoring average of 5.1 from two years ago. The Gators got a boost in August when Orien Greene won an appeal on his freshman eligibility.

KEY NEWCOMER: Greene adds to an already solid backcourt with a well-rounded game. He could play anywhere on the perimeter but may be needed most on the wing. He has no major flaws, averaging 18.5 points and 7.6 boards in high school.

STRATEGY: The euphoria of playing in last season's national championship game with only one senior quickly waned when Miller and Harvey jumped to the NBA. Thus, Florida goes from NCAA title favorite to just another very good team in the hunt. Coach Billy Donovan still has the athletes to extend defenses and force the tempo. Nelson will thrive in Donovan's up-tempo game and the Gators have shooters aplenty. Still, Haslem's presence in the paint means Florida need not live and die on the perimeter. Bottom line: Florida fans can moan about what might have been, but the Gators will be in the thick of the SEC East hunt and are very capable of making noise in March.



GATOR GUNNER: Dupay is one of several Florida players who can play the point, but this season he's likely to play most at off-guard, where the team can exploit his shooting range.

Gators

Coach: Billy Donovan (78-49, 4 years; 113-69 overall, 6 years; 7-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 29-8, SEC East: 12-4/T1st. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA title game.

Last league title: 2000 (tie/SEC East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Gainesville, Fla.

Website: www.gatorzone.com

Home court: O'Connell Center (12,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
15	F	Matt Bonner	6-9/222	So.	4.8	3.2	0.4	44.0	86.7	28.6
42	F	Bonell Colas	6-8/210	Fr.	Power forward hopes to back up Haslem.					
33	F	Adriel Davis	6-5/208	So.	1.0	.05	—	66.7	00.0	00.0
5	G	Teddy Dupay*	5-10/175	Jr.	8.6	1.6	2.6	39.3	78.2	39.0
1	G	Orien Greene	6-5/175	Fr.	Finally eligible. Deep backcourt gets deeper.					
23	G	LaDarius Halton	6-3/195	So.	Missed '99-00 recovering from knee surgery.					
12	G	Justin Hamilton	6-3/192	So.	4.7	1.7	1.2	49.0	65.2	28.0
50	C	Udonis Haslem*	6-7/260	Jr.	11.8	5.1	0.9	57.9	63.9	00.0
2	G	Ronnie King	5-11/178	Jr.	1.7	.04	—	57.1	57.1	00.0
10	G	Brett Nelson	6-3/173	So.	8.1	1.5	2.9	42.0	85.2	43.4
25	F	Major Parker	6-4/218	Sr.	3.5	1.8	0.9	39.5	38.0	26.8
00	F	Brent Wright*	6-8/232	Sr.	8.3	4.5	2.2	50.3	80.7	29.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Mike Miller*	6-8/218	14.1	6.6	2.5	47.6	72.9	33.8
G	Kenyan Weaks	6-4/198	10.0	2.7	2.1	52.4	89.8	41.5
F	Donnell Harvey*	6-8/216	10.1	7.0	1.0	50.7	61.0	0.0

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

4. South Carolina

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Rolando Howell's arrival gives the Gamecocks three good, young inside players, provided Howell's felony charges on forgery and conspiracy are resolved. Last winter, freshmen Marius Petravicus and Tony Kitchings were a bona fide 6-10 tag team. Each averaged 21 minutes but didn't play together much until later in the season, when coach Eddie Fogler resorted to a zone defense. The result, a combined 16.1 points and 9.5 rebounds per game, was effective. Fogler would like to play Petravicus and Kitchings together and still play man-to-man.

BACKCOURT: Chuck Eidson plays all three perimeter positions and makes his teammates better. The least of his contributions has been scoring (9.1 ppg). He led the team with 128 assists and led the SEC with 93 steals. At 6-7, his natural position is small forward, which he will share with senior Antonio Grant. Weak 3-point shooting is one thing preventing Aaron Lucas from being one of the league's top point guards. Jamel Bradley is one of the SEC's best from the arc (41.5 percent).

KEY NEWCOMER: Howell, a homegrown star and McDonald's All-American, was a must-have to reverse the program's downward momentum. If his situation is resolved, he should have an immediate impact on the boards. It didn't hurt that older brother Ivan already was on the team.

STRATEGY: There's a lot of North Carolina in ex-Tar Heel Fogler's playbook. The Gamecocks run a motion offense and screen opponents into frustration. A heady player like Eidson and a hot shooter like Bradley help the machinery run smoothly. The Gamecocks will be young, and the best is still a ways off.

Gamecocks

Coach: Eddie Fogler (108-102, 7 years; 250-182 overall, 14 years; 2-6 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-17. SEC East: 5-11/5th.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Columbia, S.C.

Website: www.uscsports.com

Home court: Frank McGuire Arena (12,401).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
30	G	Michael Boynton	6-2/180	Fr.	PG tallied 15 ppg. and 11 apg. as HS senior.					
10	G	Jamel Bradley	6-2/170	Jr.	7.2	0.8	0.8	.429	.867	41.5
32	F	Calvin Clemmons	6-7/235	So.	1.8	1.2	0.1	.478	.467	0.0
31	F	Chuck Eidson*	6-7/205	So.	9.1	3.6	4.0	.424	.577	34.1
35	F	Antonio Grant*	6-5/225	RSr.	8.3	4.9	1.1	.487	.562	30.3
4	F	Ivan Howell	6-7/215	So.	2.6	0.6	0.7	.421	.875	66.7
55	F/C	Rolando Howell	6-9/220	Fr.	Great local product can block shots and score.					
50	C	Tony Kitchings	6-10/260	So.	7.6	5.0	0.7	.500	.544	0.0
15	F	Travis Kraft	6-7/205	So.	3.3	0.9	0.5	.352	.778	33.8
5	G	Aaron Lucas*	5-11/185	Jr.	7.0	2.5	4.4	.372	.690	28.7
12	C	M. Petravicus*	6-10/250	So.	8.4	4.5	0.2	.477	.678	0.0
00	F	David Ross	6-5/220	Sr.	3.8	1.5	0.8	.410	.286	39.8
21	G	Greg Taylor	6-5/180	Fr.	It will take time to find backcourt niche.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Herbert Lee Davis*	6-5/182	9.4	2.8	1.3	41.1	56.2	34.7
F	Damien Kinloch	6-7/215	3.9	4.2	0.5	47.7	50.0	0.0

Schedule

N17 Tennessee Tech	D21 UNC Asheville	J20 Auburn	F20 Arkansas
N21 Wofford	D28 VMI	J27 at Florida	F24 at Georgia
N25 South Carolina St.	D30 at Providence	J31 at Louisiana State	F27 Tennessee
N29 Mercer	J7 Florida	F3 Kentucky	M3 at Mississippi State
D2 at UNC Charlotte	J10 at Kentucky	F7 Georgia	
D5 at The Citadel	J13 at Tennessee	F10 at Vanderbilt	
D9 Clemson	J17 Vanderbilt	F14 at Alabama	
		F17 Ole Miss	

5. Vanderbilt

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Dan Langhi, last season's SEC Co-Player of the Year, is irreplaceable. At 6-11, Langhi (22.2 ppg) created mismatches by posting up smaller defenders and taking bigger ones out on the floor. The returnees can't offer that, but seniors Greg LaPointe and Anthony Williams work hard on the glass. LaPointe can give Vandy a physical presence if his back is better after offseason surgery. Williams needs to score in double figures; his 86.5 percent shooting from the line is a plus. Matt Freije might be the surprise of the signing class. His size and versatility drew a comparison to Langhi from coach Kevin Stallings.

BACKCOURT: Off-guard Sam Howard is the lone returnee who could be considered a proven offensive weapon. Freshmen Billy Richmond and Scott Hundley and Seton Hall transfer Chuck Moore will battle for a job on the wing, unless Stallings goes big with Freije at the No. 3 spot. Replacing Atiba Prater at the point will be much tougher. Of two freshmen candidates, give the edge to Brendan Plavich over Russell Lakey.

KEY NEWCOMER: Plavich originally signed with Georgia Tech but got his release when Bobby Crenins retired. Vandy will be glad he did. The point guard job is wide open and Plavich (27 ppg as a prep senior) could turn out to be a four-year starter.

STRATEGY: Nobody in the division lost more leadership. Prater and James Strong were terrific defenders, and their replacements have plenty of work ahead. Offensively, the Commodores will set a world of screens to free Howard for 3-pointers. Williams and LaPointe need to approach double-figure scoring in the paint, and at least two freshmen need to compete for starting jobs.

Commodores

Coach: Kevin Stallings (19-11, 1 year; 142-74 overall, 7 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-11. SEC East: 8-8/4th. Lost to Wake Forest in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Nashville, Tenn.

Website: www.vucommodores.com

Home court: Memorial Gym (14,100).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	C	Darius Coulibaly	7-1/247	Jr.	2.2	2.2	0.3	43.9	37.5	0.0
35	F	Matt Freije	6-9/210	Fr.	Kansas state prep player of the year.					
10	G	Sam Howard	6-3/193	Jr.	10.3	2.2	1.6	38.9	74.1	35.9
24	G/F	Scott Hundley	6-5/200	Fr.	Named Kentucky's Mr. Basketball last year.					
11	G	Russell Lakey	6-0/173	Fr.	Has chance to play quite a bit at point guard.					
52	C	Greg LaPointe*	6-10/260	Sr.	4.2	2.7	0.9	45.4	48.6	14.3
44	F	Sam Lekwauwa	6-7/240	So.	5.1	2.9	0.4	51.8	67.7	0.0
25	G	Chuck Moore	6-3/182	Jr.	Transferred from Seton Hall.					
5	G/F	Brendan Plavich	6-2/203	Fr.	Has inside track on point guard job.					
12	G/F	Billy Richmond	6-5/186	Fr.	First Memphis area player to sign since '83.					
42	F/C	Martin Schnedlitz	6-10/235	Fr.	Native of Austria played prep ball in Houston.					
32	F	Anthony Williams*	6-7/245	Sr.	8.4	6.4	0.9	45.0	86.5	29.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Dan Langhi*	6-11/215	22.2	6.0	0.8	48.1	86.6	40.4
G	Atiba Prater*	6-1/180	7.3	3.3	6.1	48.1	68.9	25.4
G	James Strong*	6-3/195	11.1	4.3	4.0	46.5	57.5	31.1

Schedule

N22 James Madison	D21 Wofford	J27 Alabama	F28 Florida
N24 East Tennessee St.	D30 at Boston College	F3 at Tennessee	M3 at Auburn
N28 at W. Kentucky	J6 Mississippi	F7 Belmont	
D2 Notre Dame	J10 at LSU	F10 South Carolina	
D5 Birmingham South.	J13 Arkansas	F14 at Georgia	
D9 Florida State	J17 at South Carolina	F17 Kentucky	
D16 Furman	J20 at Florida	F21 at Mississippi State	
	J24 Georgia	F24 Tennessee	

6. Georgia

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Anthony Evans and Shon Coleman lived a JC transfer's dream at Georgia by becoming indispensable starters from the first day of practice. Evans, a 6-7 wide body, was one of the SEC's more efficient players. In 31 minutes per game, he converted 58.2 percent of his shots, scored 14.7 points, grabbed 8.7 boards and frequently outplayed taller players. Coleman was nearly as strong, averaging 12.4 points, 8.2 rebounds and shooting 53 percent. But Georgia lacked depth, and both Evans and Coleman wore down at season's end. The arrival of freshman Chris Daniels, an early signee, may help.

BACKCOURT: Georgia is set at shooting guard with D.A. Layne, the leading returning scorer in the SEC. Freshman Rashad Wright gets the point guard job virtually by default. Freshman Moses White was forced into the job last year but was one of several Bulldogs who left the team. Ezra Williams sat out last year but could supplant senior Adrian Jones at the No. 3 spot.

KEY NEWCOMER: Williams is a quality wing. He was the prize of Georgia's high school class of 1999 but was ruled academically ineligible, much to coach Jim Harrick's consternation. Williams has the muscle to go to the rack but also has a shooter's touch.

STRATEGY: Depth is still a problem in Harrick's second season. Georgia lost 11 of its final 12 games. In Coleman, Evans, Layne and Williams, Harrick has four quality players, but then there's a drop-off. The Bulldogs give up too many easy baskets because their front-line players can't go hard every defensive possession. But Harrick hasn't resorted to holding the ball to shorten games, nor has he backed off in scheduling.

Bulldogs

Coach: Jim Harrick (10-20, 1 year; 413-202 overall, 20 years; 17-13 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with UCLA in 1995).

1999-2000 record: 10-20. SEC East: 3-13/6th.

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Athens, Ga.

Website: www.georgiadogs.com

Home court: Stegeman Coliseum (10,523).

*1999-2000 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
51	F	Shon Coleman*	6-6/215	Sr.	12.4	8.2	1.5	53.0	55.6	0.0
	F	Chris Daniels	6-7/210	Fr.	Best signee, considered best prep in Ga..					
34	C	Robb Dryden	7-1/260	Sr.	5.3	3.1	.5	51.9	74.1	0.0
4	F	Anthony Evans*	6-7/265	Sr.	14.7	8.7	1.4	58.2	63.1	0.0
20	G	Jonathan Goss	6-1/185	Fr.	Walk-on not likely to see much court time.					
11	G	Adrian Jones*	6-5/195	Sr.	7.8	4.4	2.7	41.3	65.1	34.2
32	G	D.A. Layne*	6-0/190	Jr.	18.3	2.3	3.0	40.1	81.7	38.4
15	G	Mike Patrick	6-4/195	So.	3.4	2.6	1.4	40.0	68.2	29.4
50	F	Ryan Pevey	6-5/215	Jr.	Transferred from Bryan College (Tenn.)					
55	F	Steve Thomas	6-8/230	Fr.	Projected backup at center & power forward.					
5	G	Ezra Williams	6-4/205	So.	Partial qualifier in 1999-2000.					
3	G	Rashad Wright	6-0/170	Fr.	Force-feeding the point guard slot to rookie.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Moses White*	5-11/160	3.8	1.9	3.6	35.9	60.9	21.9
F	Shawn Fields	6-3/195	4.0	3.4	1.0	43.0	58.1	20.8
G	Nick Temen	6-4/225	2.9	1.0	0.5	38.6	14.3	34.8

Schedule

N17 Georgia State	D9 at NC State	J17 at Florida	F14 Vanderbilt
N19 at Minnesota	D21 California*	J20 LSU	F21 at Tennessee
N23-25 Puerto Rico Shootout	D23 at Fresno State	J24 at Vanderbilt	F24 South Carolina
	D28 Villanova	J27 Tennessee	F28 Mississippi State
N29 Coastal Carolina	J6 at Kentucky	J31 Kentucky	M3 at Arkansas
D3 Pepperdine	J10 Auburn	F3 Florida	*Oakland, Calif.
D6 at Georgia Tech	J13 at Mississippi	F7 at South Carolina	
		F10 at Alabama	

.789

The field-goal percentage (15-for-19) for Florida's Udonis Haslem in the Final Four, the third-best shooting percentage in Final Four history. A two-time All-SEC performer, Haslem scored 27 points in the title game against Michigan State. His play will be even more vital this season for the Gators, who like to run but won't have near the frontcourt depth they did last season.



West Division

1. Alabama

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N20	Troy State
N25	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N30	Louisville
D4	Grambling
D7	Wofford
D9	Akron*
D16	North Texas**
D20-22	Puerto Rico Shootout
D30	Alabama State
J2	Southeastern Louisiana
J6	at LSU
J9	at Tennessee
J13	Mississippi State
J17	Mississippi
J20	at Arkansas
J23	Kentucky
J27	Auburn
J31	at Vanderbilt
F3	LSU
F7	at Mississippi State
F10	Georgia
F14	South Carolina
F17	Ohio State
F21	at Auburn
F24	at Florida
F28	Arkansas
M3	at Mississippi
*Birmingham, Ala.	
**Mobile, Ala.	

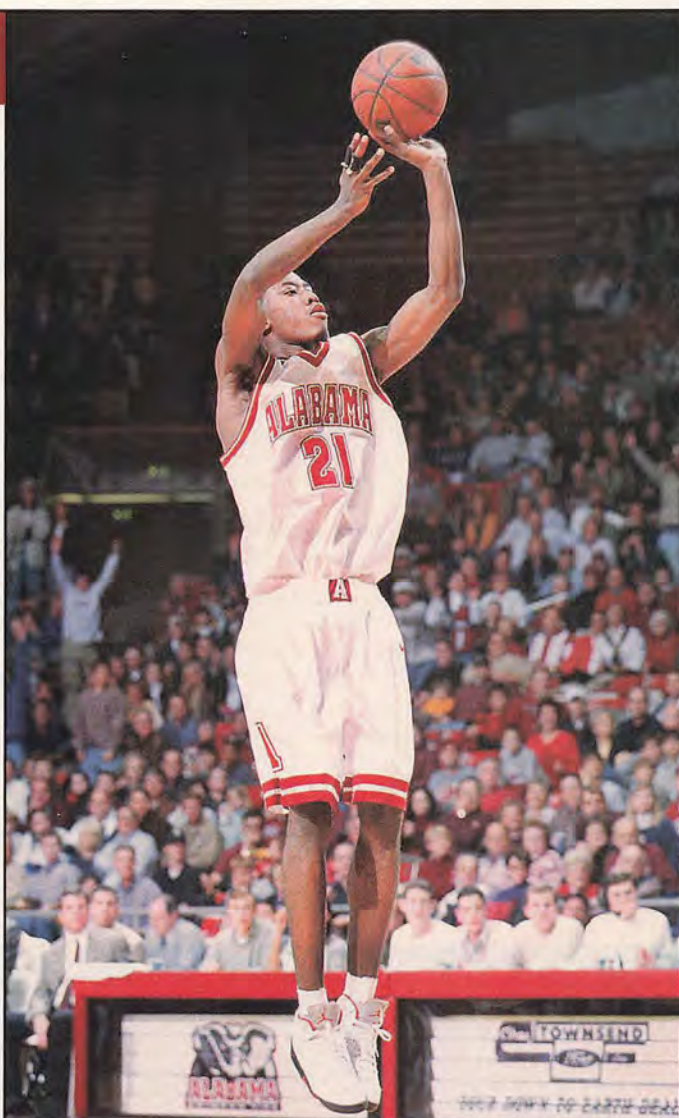
FRONT COURT: The Crimson Tide will hope to stay healthy up front after being injury-plagued there last season. Fifth-year senior center Jeremy Hays, who redshirted last season after suffering torn knee ligaments in the fourth game, is expected to be back at full speed. Hays, a good rebounder who can shoot well from the perimeter, has bulked up from 225 to 260 since last season. His agility and ability to run the court have been his strengths, so he needs to make sure the extra weight doesn't slow him down. Also coming back from an injury is sophomore Kenny Walker, who suffered a stress fracture in his shin but played well last season when healthy. With Hays out for most of last season and Walker slowed for much of it, sophomore Erwin Dudley got the majority of playing time inside and stepped up as a strong rebounder and inside scorer. If Hays and Walker are at full speed, they'll form a strong inside rotation with Dudley and freshman Gerald Wallace. Adding depth and experience inside are fifth-year senior Alfred Moss and junior Sam Haginas. Neither Moss nor Haginas are go-to players, but they can provide valuable minutes off the bench, especially early in the season when Hays and Walker will be working their way back into the lineup. Freshman Reggie Rambo also could help off the bench.

BACK COURT: Alabama should have a strong rotation, despite the loss of Schea

Cotton, last season's leading scorer who decided to pursue a pro career. Sophomores Rod Grizzard and Terrance Meade should provide plenty of scoring from 3-point range, and either can carry the team offensively when he's hot. In consecutive games late last season, Grizzard scored 25 points against Auburn and Meade had 19 against Tennessee in leading Alabama to upset victories. Grizzard, 6-8, is especially tough for opposing guards to handle because of his height, and he's a good rebounder. Senior Tarik London, who played the best ball of his career down the stretch, will start at point guard. He isn't flashy and won't do much scoring, but he is taking better care of the ball and he's a good passer. Senior Terrance "Doc" Martin is recovering from a broken foot he suffered in the summer and should be a solid player off the bench. Freshman Demetrius Smith is a combo guard who will help spell London. Senior walk-on Jim Bakken showed last season he could help as a scorer off the bench, and sophomore Travis Stinnett also could figure in the rotation after being sidelined by injuries.

KEY NEWCOMER: Wallace should be an impact freshman in the SEC. He was rated the nation's top high school player by many recruiting services and is a great athlete. He is a force inside, and he's strong and fast enough to start and finish a fast break. He figures to win a starting job on the front line or get lots of quality minutes off the bench.

STRATEGY: Look for Alabama to play a more up-tempo style after being forced to slow down last season because of its rash of injuries. Assuming the Tide can avoid serious injuries this season, coach Mark Gottfried has the numbers and talent to play an open-court game that is well-suited to Alabama's young guns. With Hays back to provide stability and leadership and Wallace adding power inside, Alabama should challenge for the SEC West title and its first NCAA Tournament berth since 1995.



TALL ORDER: At 6-8, Grizzard is a handful for opposing shooting guards. He can carry the Crimson Tide offensively when he's hot, and he can hit the boards.

DATA

Crimson Tide

Coach: Mark Gottfried (30-31, 2 years; 98-55 overall, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 13-16. SEC West: 6-10/4th.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Website: www.rolltide.com

Home court: Coleman Coliseum (15,043).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
25	G	Jim Bakken	6-7/215	Sr.	1.2	0.7	0.4	40.0	00.0	33.3
35	F/C	Erwin Dudley*	6-8/240	So.	10.3	8.1	1.0	49.8	75.7	66.7
21	G	Rod Grizzard*	6-8/205	So.	13.2	5.1	1.2	38.4	74.3	29.7
43	F	Sam Haginas	6-8/235	Jr.	4.7	2.8	0.2	44.0	59.1	50.0
52	C	Jeremy Hays	6-10/260	Sr.	Averaged 12 points, 8.4 rebounds in '98-99.					
05	G	Tarik London*	6-1/200	Sr.	3.7	2.7	3.8	36.8	63.0	33.3
20	G	T. "Doc" Martin	6-3/205	Sr.	6.7	3.1	1.3	43.6	76.3	36.8
14	G	Terrance Meade*	6-2/190	So.	11.5	3.8	1.7	41.6	71.6	42.3
50	PG	Antoine Pettaway	6-0/165	Fr.	Not likely to push for playing time this year.					
04	F	Reggie Rambo	6-7/218	Fr.	Averaged 18 pts. & 12 boards as HS senior.					
23	G	Demetrius Smith	6-3/215	Fr.	Combo guard could spell London.					
22	G	Travis Stinnett	5-11/170	So.	Missed two years with same injury.					
42	F/C	Kenny Walker	6-9/214	So.	6.1	4.2	0.2	47.5	70.9	0.0
02	F	Gerald Wallace	6-7/210	Fr.	Naismith HS Player of Yr. (27 ppg, 13.8 rpg).					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Schea Cotton*	6-5/215	15.5	4.5	1.6	42.9	71.7	25.5

2. Arkansas

NATIONAL RANK

22

Schedule

N17-18 John Thompson Cl.
N22 Jackson State
N25 Louisiana-Monroe
N28 Centenary
D2 Memphis
D5 North Texas
D9 at Oklahoma State
D20 Northwestern State
D30 Grambling State
J2 Md.-Eastern Shore
J6 at Mississippi State
J10 Mississippi
J13 at Vanderbilt
J17 Auburn
J20 Alabama
J27 at LSU
J31 at Mississippi
F3 Mississippi State
F7 Tennessee
F10 at Florida
F14 at Auburn
F17 LSU
F20 at South Carolina
F25 Kentucky
F28 at Alabama
M3 Georgia

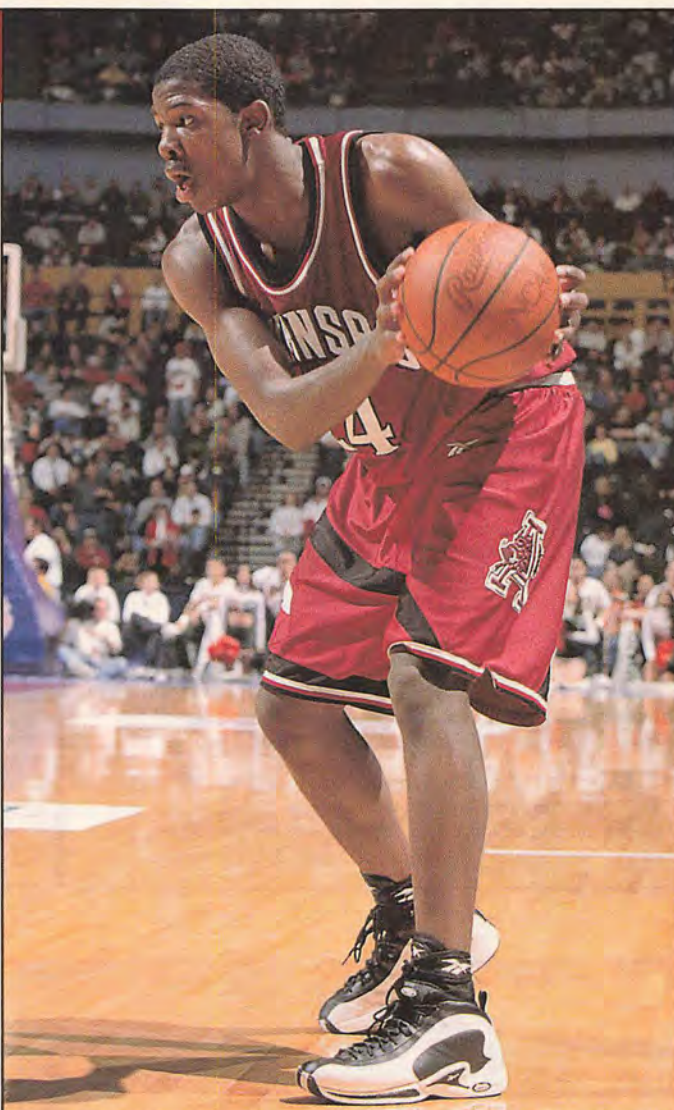
FRONTCOURT: The players who must deliver inside all have played a season in the SEC after being college rookies last year. Sophomore Alonzo Lane, 6-7, is the team's most polished offensive player around the basket. Despite being smaller than many of the players he matches up against, Lane has a knack for maneuvering into position for a good shot or getting fouled. He shot a team-high 56 percent from the field last season and led Arkansas with 106 free-throw attempts. But Lane needs to improve from the line, where he shot 50 percent. He led the team in blocked shots (34) but needs to become a more aggressive rebounder. Other players the team will depend on inside are sophomores Carl Baker and Larry Satchell and sophomore Dionisio Gomez. Baker can be a tough rebounder and has a nice midrange jumper, but he needs to be more consistent. Satchell is a strong rebounder and defender, but he needs to improve his offensive skills. Gomez has to stop shooting so much from the perimeter (3-of-17 on 3-point tries last season) and get tougher inside. Freshman Michael Jones might redshirt.

BACKCOURT: It's critical that sophomore Joe Johnson makes a full recovery from ankle surgery in August. He is expected to be ready for the start of practice and figures to be the SEC's top player because he has point guard skills in a forward's body (6-9, 225). Johnson can score from the

perimeter, off the dribble and on rebounds and can get to the line, where he shot 75.9 percent last season. Along with his wealth of offensive skills, Johnson is a tough defender whose long reach makes him especially effective in Arkansas' pressing game. He's also unselfish and a good passer. Juniors Brandon Dean and Teddy Gipson were up-and-down as sophomores and need to bring the consistency they showed in helping Arkansas win the 2000 SEC Tournament championship. Dean, who was slowed by ankle injuries last season, is a great leaper with a quick first step to get to the basket. Gipson is a slasher and a good 3-point shooter. Junior T.J. Cleveland figures to start at point guard and is the team's defensive catalyst. His return to the lineup late last season after being sidelined by an ankle injury helped key Arkansas' run to the NCAA Tournament. Brandon Davis is the only senior and will be counted on for leadership. He's a tough defender and rebounder. Junior college transfer Jannero Pargo is expected to be an impact player in the rotation. The perimeter shooting of Blake Eddins and Charles Tatum should help, too.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Razorbacks are counting on Pargo to give them a lot of maturity, playmaking ability, good shooting and tough defense. He is Arkansas' first junior college player since Tarik Wallace three years ago.

STRATEGY: Coach Nolan Richardson's calling card will continue to be the "40 minutes of hell" he wants the Razorbacks to give opponents on both ends of the court. They will force an up-tempo game and create a lot of points off turnovers. Look for Richardson to continue to switch lineups often throughout the season to give every player a chance to show what he can do and keep everyone hungry. With Johnson leading the way, the Razorbacks look ready to win their first SEC West title since 1995 and should be back in the NCAA Tournament for the 13th time in the last 14 years.



FINGERS CROSSED: Arkansas' hopes of winning the SEC West ride on a healthy Johnson, who was expected to make a full recovery from offseason ankle surgery.

DATA Razorbacks

Coach: Nolan Richardson (356-144, 15 years; 475-181 overall, 20 years; 26-14 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-15. SEC West: 7-9/3rd. Lost to Miami (Fla.) in NCAA South first round.

Last league title: 1995 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Fayetteville, Ark.

Website: www.hogwired.com

Home court: Bud Walton Arena (19,200).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	F	Carl Baker	6-8/200	So.	4.4	4.2	1.1	39.9	42.9	46.7
5	G	T.J. Cleveland	6-1/168	Jr.	8.8	2.5	2.9	40.8	68.5	41.5
20	G/F	Brandon Davis	6-4/198	Sr.	4.0	2.1	0.9	35.0	51.7	30.4
13	G	Brandon Dean*	6-1/190	Jr.	8.5	2.0	1.6	44.1	62.3	30.3
21	G	Blake Eddins	6-6/205	So.	2.6	1.3	0.4	38.4	58.8	32.4
23	G	Teddy Gipson*	6-4/170	Jr.	8.7	2.5	1.4	47.6	48.2	39.8
33	F	Dionisio Gomez	6-8/215	So.	1.5	2.1	0.4	29.4	40.0	17.6
24	G/F	Joe Johnson*	6-9/225	So.	16.0	5.7	2.2	46.4	75.9	36.8
22	F	Michael Jones	6-9/190	Fr.	Still wait and see. Could redshirt.					
31	F	Alonzo Lane*	6-7/240	So.	7.9	4.1	0.8	56.0	50.0	0.0
12	G	Jannero Pargo	6-1/170	Jr.	JC transfer adds points and ballhandling.					
50	F	Larry Satchell	6-9/220	So.	2.6	2.3	0.4	50.9	41.7	0.0
3	G	Charles Tatum	5-10/165	So.	3.4	.06	0.5	32.3	79.2	27.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Chris Walker*	6-5/200	10.8	4.5	1.9	41.0	66.7	37.0

PATRICK MURPHY/ACEY FOR TSN

SOUTHEASTERN

3. Mississippi State

NATIONAL RANK

58

FRONTCOURT: Forward Tang Hamilton should develop into an All-SEC player as a senior. He can slash and get to the line, and he is best in an open-court game. Junior center Robert Jackson is the Bulldogs' strongest inside player and a relentless offensive

rebounder. Freshman forward Mario Austin should add a strong inside presence. Junior Tyrus Boswell is a solid contributor off the bench who can rebound and score inside and is a good free-throw shooter. Lincoln Smith and Quentin Smith also are back to lend depth in the rotation.

BACKCOURT: Senior Antonio Jackson will be a leader who can play both guard positions. He is the Bulldogs' best 3-point shooter and handles the ball well enough to play the point. Sophomore Derrick Zimmerman, who provided a spark off the bench last season, figures to be the starting point guard, but he needs to have a better assist-to-turnover ratio. Juniors Michael Gholar and Marckell Patterson are swing players who have starting experience. Gholar is a tough defender and rebounder. Senior T.J. Billups and freshman Timmy Bowers could help.

KEY NEWCOMER: Austin is MSU's first player who has received McDonald's All-American honors. He is expected to help immediately as an inside scorer and rebounder and should take pressure off Robert Jackson. Austin handles the ball well for a big man and is an effective passer out of double-teams.

STRATEGY: The Bulldogs should have a strong inside game with Robert Jackson and Austin, and they have the athletes to play up-tempo when it suits them. With the addition of Austin to an experienced squad, MSU could get an NCAA Tournament bid.

Bulldogs

Coach: Rick Stansbury (34-29, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-16. SEC West: 5-11/T5th.

Last league title: 1996 (SEC West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Starkville, Miss.

Website: www.mstateathletics.com

Home court: Humphrey Coliseum (10,500).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
54	F/C	Mario Austin	6-9/260	Fr.	First McDonald's All-American to play here.					
4	F/G	T.J. Billups	6-4/205	Sr.	2.0	1.0	0.2	34.6	51.4	23.5
25	F	Tyrus Boswell	6-7/235	Jr.	5.3	3.7	0.1	48.2	75.8	20.0
15	G	Timmy Bowers	6-3/175	Fr.	Fifth Miss. player of year to sign in 6 years.					
14	G	Guy Gardner	6-2/175	Jr.	Walk-on's JC stats: 12.2 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 5 apg.					
21	F/G	Michael Gholar*	6-5/205	Jr.	5.4	4.4	1.4	37.2	52.5	34.1
20	F	Tang Hamilton*	6-7/215	Sr.	14.4	6.2	0.8	47.1	69.8	30.7
31	F/G	Ontario Harper	6-5/190	Fr.	Signed in '97, did not play at all in '99-00.					
11	G	Antonio Jackson*	6-4/185	Sr.	12.0	3.1	3.1	39.8	76.0	38.5
55	F/C	Robert Jackson*	6-8/245	Jr.	12.3	7.0	0.4	59.9	68.8	0.0
24	F/G	Marckell Patterson	6-5/190	Jr.	8.9	3.9	1.4	44.7	70.0	32.8
33	F/C	Quentin Smith	6-9/250	Sr.	4.0	2.9	0.1	56.4	40.0	0.0
22	G	D. Zimmerman	6-2/185	So.	4.3	2.1	1.4	39.5	60.5	28.1

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Todd Myles*	6-4/175	8.6	2.4	4.5	45.5	72.2	36.8

Schedule

N13 at California*	D18 Montana State	J24 LSU	F24 at LSU
N15 Texas/Navy*	D28 S. Louisiana	J27 Mississippi	F28 at Georgia
N18 McNeese State	D30 La.-Lafayette#	J31 at Auburn	M3 South Carolina
N21 Mississippi Valley St.	D30 Arizona or Butler#	F3 at Arkansas	*Preseason NIT
N30 Alabama A&M	J6 Arkansas	F7 Alabama	#Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic
D2 Richmond	J10 Florida	F10 at Kentucky	
D5 Louisiana Tech	J13 at Alabama	F14 at Mississippi	
	J17 Tulane	F17 Auburn	
	J20 at Tennessee	F21 Vanderbilt	

4. Auburn

NATIONAL RANK

76

FRONTCOURT: Mack McGadney is the go-to scorer inside. He received All-SEC tourney honors last season after he filled in for the suspended Chris Porter, and he's ready to step into a key role. Freshman power forward Abdou Diame is a strong rebounder

who attacks the basket well. Freshmen Kyle Davis, 6-10, and Marin Bota, 7-0, will play center. Davis is athletic for a big man, but he needs experience. Marquis Daniels is projected to start at small forward after contributing off the bench last season.

BACKCOURT: Jamison Brewer is the leading candidate to start at point guard, but he could be challenged for the starting job by JC transfer Lincoln Glass. Brewer is a good ballhandler, but he needs to improve his perimeter shooting. Sophomore Adam Harrington, who redshirted last season after transferring from North Carolina State, is expected to start at the two-guard spot, meaning senior Scott Pohlman, a starter the last three seasons, can provide a scoring spark off the bench. The Tigers also have quality depth with senior Reggie Sharp and junior Jay Heard.

KEY NEWCOMER: Harrington could be the Tigers' leading scorer and the SEC's top newcomer. He averaged 11.6 points at NC State, including a 26-point game at Duke, and made the ACC All-Freshman Team. Auburn lost four senior starters, so Harrington will need to help pick up the scoring slack. He's a good 3-point shooter and can get to the line.

STRATEGY: Auburn will continue its pressing and running style. The Tigers have a lot of talent, but they're short on experience, especially at point guard. If the young players don't produce, they could have trouble making it to the Big Dance.

Tigers

Coach: Cliff Ellis (120-69, 6 years; 468-281 overall, 25 years; 6-7 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 24-10. SEC West: 9-7/2nd. Lost to Iowa State in NCAA Midwest second round.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Auburn, Ala.

Website: www.auburn.edu.com

Home court: Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum (10,500).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	C	Marin Bota	7-0/228	Fr.	Adds size and inexperience to young team.					
5	G	Jamison Brewer	6-4/180	So.	2.3	1.7	1.7	40.7	52.0	20.0
33	F	Donny Calton	6-6/194	So.	2.5	1.0	1.0	60.0	100.0	100.0
3	F	Marquis Daniels	6-6/200	So.	4.5	2.6	0.5	44.4	50.0	20.0
34	F	Kyle Davis	6-10/210	Fr.	Quick, shot-blocker must replace N'diaye.					
4	F	Abdou Diame	6-9/196	Fr.	Needs strength, but adds good post mobility.					
40	G	Lincoln Glass	5-10/185	Jr.	Top five JC recruit has edge for PG job.					
21	G	Adam Harrington	6-5/185	So.	Transfer led NC State in scoring as frosh.					
12	G	Jay Heard	6-3/190	Jr.	3.6	1.1	.4	36.6	33.3	35.7
31	F	Mack McGadney	6-7/220	Jr.	7.2	4.8	0.4	40.8	62.0	27.7
10	G	Scott Pohlman*	6-2/170	Sr.	9.9	2.4	1.6	35.9	76.5	31.6
	G	Brandon Robinson	6-6/195	Fr.	May add minutes in possible 3-guard look.					
11	G	Reggie Sharp	6-1/185	Sr.	3.2	1.4	.9	31.9	51.9	30.9

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Chris Porter*	6-7/218	14.6	7.3	1.1	46.4	67.6	23.5
G	Daymeon Fishback*	6-5/218	9.6	4.1	1.2	39.2	67.5	36.0
C	Mamadou N'diaye*	7-0/245	8.9	7.9	0.5	53.5	66.5	—
G	Doc Robinson*	6-2/185	11.5	3.0	5.1	40.3	77.8	35.2p

Schedule

N17 Florida A&M	D16 Oregon**	J20 at South Carolina	F21 Alabama
N19 Jacksonville State	D19 Georgia Southern	J24 Florida	F24 at Mississippi
N20 Mercer	D30 Southern Miss.	J27 at Alabama	F28 at Kentucky
N24-26 Moun. Energy Tr.	J2 TBA	J31 Mississippi State	M3 Vanderbilt
D1 South Alabama	J6 Tennessee	F2 Mississippi	*Birmingham, Ala.
D4 TBA	J10 at Georgia	F10 at LSU	**Las Vegas
D9 Detroit*	J13 LSU	F14 Arkansas	
	J17 at Arkansas	F17 at Mississippi State	

5. LSU

NATIONAL RANK

84

FRONTCOURT: Senior forward Brian Beshara is 6-8 but more of a perimeter player. He can step out and shoot the 3-pointer if necessary, but he is Auburn's top returning rebounder and must provide an inside presence at times on their thin front line.

Junior Brad Bridgewater played sparingly last season and must step up as a rebounder and interior defender. Sophomore Ronald Dupree is a great leaper and can be dangerous working the baseline. Junior college transfer Jason Wilson also could help inside.

BACKCOURT: This will be LSU's strength, led by senior Lamont Roland and sophomore Torris Bright. Roland is a tough defender and can go strong to the basket. Bright proved to be an iron man at point guard last season when he averaged 33.4 minutes, and the Tigers need him to stay strong and healthy again. Bright handles and distributes the ball well, and he is LSU's top 3-point shooter. Sophomore Collis Temple is a reliable backup. Freshman JueMichael Young also could provide depth.

KEY NEWCOMER: Although Young is LSU's only scholarship signee, the newcomer providing the most help could be junior walk-on forward Jason Wilson, a JC transfer who can give the Tigers much-needed strength and size inside.

STRATEGY: Perimeter players are the Tigers' strength, so the team will shift its focus to the outside. A lack of depth will make it tougher for LSU to run, but the Tigers hope to score in transition when the opportunity is there. When the Tigers set up in the halfcourt, they'll run a motion offense with four players outside and one inside. There is some good returning talent, but expect the Tigers to have a mediocre finish in the SEC West.

DATA

Tigers

Coach: John Brady (50-39, 3 years; 138-116 overall, 9 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 28-6. SEC West: 12-4/T1st. Lost to Wisconsin in NCAA West semifinal.
Last league title: 2000 (SEC East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.
Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Website:** www.LSUsports.com
Home court: Pete Maravich Assembly Center (14,164).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
2	F	Brian Beshara*	6-8/220	Sr.	11.0	5.1	1.8	44.7	71.7	35.4
54	F	B. Bridgewater	6-8/250	Jr.	1.7	1.2	0.1	48.8	42.9	0.0
3	G	Torris Bright*	6-4/200	So.	10.0	3.7	4.3	43.2	65.9	39.9
12	G/F	Ronald Dupree	6-6/205	So.	4.9	3.3	0.4	46.3	57.4	14.3
00	G/F	Brian Green	6-4/190	So.	.04	.04	0.0	10.0	10.0	0.0
11	G	Brandon Landry	6-0/175	Jr.	.08	.01	0.5	40.0	0.0	40.0
43	G	Lamont Roland*	6-4/205	Sr.	10.9	4.6	2.3	42.4	60.4	30.6
41	G	Collis Temple III	6-6/205	So.	4.0	1.6	0.9	42.5	76.1	37.9
21	F	J. Williams Jr.	6-6/180	Jr.	4.7	2.4	1.8	42.9	76.8	35.0
45	G	Jack Warner	6-4/205	Sr.	.09	.02	0.0	50.0	75.0	50.0
G		JueMichael Young	6-2/180	Fr.	Only 2000-01 signee during probation.					
F		Jason Wilson	6-7/250	Jr.	JC walk-on could be a big help to thin front line.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Stromile Swift*	6-9/225	16.2	8.2	0.9	60.8	61.7	28.0
C	Jabari Smith*	6-11/275	12.5	7.0	2.2	55.3	59.5	37.1

Schedule		Highlighted names: projected starter	
N20 Louisiana-Monroe	D22 Nichols State	J24 at Mississippi State	F21 at Kentucky
N25 Norfolk State	D28 Oregon State*	J27 Arkansas	F24 Mississippi State
N28 at Houston	J3 Wyoming	J31 South Carolina	F28 Mississippi
D9 Texas Southern	J6 Alabama	F3 at Alabama	M3 at Tennessee
D13 McNeese State	J10 Vanderbilt	F7 at Mississippi	*New Orleans
D16 New Orleans	J13 at Auburn	F10 Auburn	
D20 at Arizona	J17 Centenary	F13 Florida	
	J21 at Georgia	F17 at Arkansas	

6. Mississippi

NATIONAL RANK

87

FRONTCOURT: Rahim Lockhart (6-8, 250) is a load to handle and should be a focal point of the offense. He uses his size to get good position, but he must become a better free-throw shooter. Sophomore John Gunn can play well in spurts off the bench. The rest of the playing time is up for grabs among Richard Kirklin, Josh Hayes, Justin Reed and Derrick Allen. Reed, a freshman, is the most talented of the group. Kirklin, a solid defender, played off the bench last season and has to show he's ready for a bigger role. Allen is expected to help as a scorer and rebounder.

BACKCOURT: Senior Jason Flanigan and junior Jason Harrison are the Rebels' most experienced guards, and both can play the point. Flanigan is a defensive stopper and has become more aggressive on offense. Harrison, who is 5-5, is quick enough to get around most opponents and led the Rebels in assists and steals last season. Sophomore Emmanuel Wade is a good perimeter shooter, but he has to do a better job taking care of the ball. Senior Jason Holmes needs to improve his 3-point shooting. Sophomore Syniker Taylor is a great athlete who can provide depth along with newcomers David Sanders and Aaron Harper.

KEY NEWCOMER: Reed is considered the most heralded recruit in school history. He is big and athletic, and he is expected to have an immediate impact.

STRATEGY: Tough, physical defense will set the tone for the team. The Rebels don't mind an ugly game in which they are aggressive on defense and pound the ball inside to Lockhart to open up the outside. Ole Miss has solid talent, but it might be tough to move up in the West.

DATA

Rebels

Coach: Rod Barnes (39-27, 2 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 19-14. SEC West: 5-11/T5th. Lost to N.C. State in NIT quarterfinals.
Last league title: 1998 (SEC West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Oxford, Miss. **Website:** www.olemisssports.com
Home court: Tad Smith Coliseum (8,135).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
40	F	Derrick Allen	6-7/215	Jr.	8.4	2.9	3.1	36.7	68.2	38.2
22	G	Jason Flanigan*	6-1/175	Sr.	8.4	2.9	3.1	36.7	68.2	38.2
31	F/C	John Gunn	6-10/245	So.	3.1	1.8	0.1	58.1	69.2	—
5	G	Aaron Harper	6-5/180	Fr.	Signed in '98 and '99; Has 4 eligible years.					
11	G	Jason Harrison*	5-5/150	Jr.	9.4	2.8	3.5	34.6	79.5	35.8
30	F	Josh Hayes	6-7/190	Fr.	Missed last year with stress fracture in foot.					
20	G	Jason Holmes	6-5/205	Sr.	3.3	1.6	0.8	25.2	75.0	25.0
45	F	Richard Kirklin	6-9/205	So.	1.9	1.7	0.2	42.0	64.3	40.0
44	F	Rahim Lockhart*	6-8/250	Sr.	12.2	8.4	0.9	58.1	48.3	0.0
23	F	Justin Reed	6-8/225	Fr.	Parade All-American scored 27.4 ppg in HS.					
15	G	David Sanders	6-3/170	So.	First signed in '97. Did not play ball '99-00.					
24	G	Syniker Taylor	6-0/195	So.	2.2	2.3	0.6	33.3	58.8	18.2
32	G	Emmanuel Wade	6-3/185	So.	4.9	1.7	0.9	44.0	67.7	31.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Marcus Hicks*	6-6/210	14.3	5.9	1.8	49.6	64.3	30.8
F	Lataryl Williams*	6-7/205	9.0	3.5	2.1	48.8	62.0	37.1
G	Darrian Brown	6-6/205	6.9	3.1	0.3	37.4	74.3	34.5

Schedule		Highlighted names: projected starter	
N18 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Louisiana	J13 Georgia	F21 at Florida
N22 Sam Houston State	D18 Troy State	J17 at Alabama	F24 Auburn
N25 at Va. Commonwealth	D21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic	J31 Arkansas	F28 at LSU
N28 Louisiana-Monroe	D30 Morris Brown	F3 at Auburn	M3 Alabama
D2 Oklahoma	J6 at Vanderbilt	F7 LSU	
D9 at Memphis	J10 at Arkansas	F10 Tennessee	
		F14 Mississippi State	
		F17 at South Carolina	

Big 12

By JEROME SOLOMON
Houston Chronicle

BLAIR KERKHOFF
Kansas City Star

Predictions

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kansas* | 8. Texas Tech |
| 2. Oklahoma* | 9. Baylor |
| 3. Missouri* | 10. Nebraska |
| 4. Texas* | 11. Texas A&M |
| 5. Iowa State* | 12. Kansas State |
| 6. Colorado | |
| 7. Oklahoma State | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Big 12 First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jamaal Tinsley, Iowa State	6-3	175	Jr.
G	Maurice Evans, Texas	6-5	220	Jr.
F	Chris Owens, Texas	6-9	245	Jr.
C	Kimani Ffriend, Nebraska	6-11	220	Sr.
F	Drew Gooden, Kansas	6-9	221	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Bernard King, Texas A&M	6-4	185	So.
G	Cookie Belcher, Nebraska	6-4	205	Sr.
G/F	Nolan Johnson, Oklahoma	6-4	215	Sr.
F	Andy Ellis, Texas Tech	6-11	225	Jr.
F	Kareem Rush, Missouri	6-6	214	So.

Player of the Year

Kareem Rush, F, Missouri

Newcomer of the Year

Maurice Evans, G, Texas

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Tim Heskett, Oklahoma
Best rebounder: Kimani Ffriend, Nebraska
Best playmaker: Jamaal Tinsley, Iowa State
Best defender: Jamaal Tinsley, Iowa State
Best leaper: Terry Black, Baylor
Best under 6-0: Jamaal Gilchrist, Texas A&M
Best over 7-0: Eric Chenowith, Kansas
Most versatile: Nolan Johnson, Oklahoma
Most flamboyant: Bernard King, Texas A&M
Best NBA prospect: Jamaal Tinsley, Iowa State

ASCENDING: Texas Tech. That three-win conference season last year was an aberration. The Red Raiders would have been a .500 team were it not for injuries. Now, with Andy Ellis and Cliff Owens returning, Tech should move from the bottom of the conference to the middle.

DESCENDING: Oklahoma State. With only two players who saw any meaningful minutes returning and six seniors gone, a tough season looms. The Cowboys' recruiting class is an impressive one, but a bit of a decline is in order this season.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Marcus Fizer, Iowa State. The 22.8 points a game he produced last season will not be replaced easily. Senior Martin Rancik, who was injured for much of last year, and Tyray Pearson, a junior college transfer, will probably take that forward spot in title, but they play a different style than Fizer. Rancik is 6-8 as is Fizer, but at 230, he weighs 35 fewer pounds. Pearson is 6-7 and only 210 pounds but is a very good rebounder and scorer.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Darren Kelly, Texas. The Longhorns' inside play dominated the headlines last season, but Kelly quietly became an important cog for the team after he moved into the starting lineup for the last 12 games of his first season in Division I ball. He was the Longhorns' top 3-point shooter, finishing second in the conference at 45.2 percent, and was third on the team in scoring and second in assists.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Eric Chenowith, Kansas. Inflated expectations may have more to do with his being award-



TALL ISN'T ALL:

The expectations that accompanied Chenowith to KU were such that no matter what he does, it may never be enough.

ed this dubious honor as anything else. Playboy tabbed him a preseason All-American last year, and this season's Kansas preseason prospectus proclaims Chenowith, "has the potential to be a dominating force in the paint." No wonder Kansas fans can't accept average or slightly below-average play from the 7-1 Chenowith, who lost his starting job two-thirds of the way through last season. Questions of work ethic aside, Chenowith is limited skill-wise.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Considering that seven of the league's 12 coaches have been on the job fewer than three years and

that those who deserved to be run off after last season were run off, no coach seems to be in danger.

BEST BETS: Kansas coach Roy Williams will bawl his eyes out at the postgame news conference after his Jayhawks make another premature exit from the NCAA Tournament. ... Three league teams will advance to the Sweet 16, one to the Elite Eight and none to the Final Four—again. No Big 12 team has reached the Final Four since Oklahoma State in 1995. ... Despite criticism from some quarters, the Colorado Buffaloes will continue to have a prayer after each practice and before each game. But they will have no prayer, no hope and no chance during many of those games. ... Kansas center Chenoweth, who inch-for-inch was the worst player in the league last year, will be the best player in the conference over 7-0 this season. ... Iowa State coach Larry Eustachy will be on his best behavior all season, thanks to the NCAA's reprimand of him for his conduct near the end of the Cyclones' loss to Michigan State in the Midwest Regional final. Then again, Eustachy could get so upset during a game that he will leave the Hilton Coliseum, return with three snowballs and fling them at the officiating crew. ... Texas Tech guard Moses Malone, Jr. will score more points in one game this season than his father, Moses Sr., scored in his entire college career. (The future Hall of Famer, of course, never played college ball, electing to go straight to the ABA out of high

school.) ... Missouri will spoil the title hopes of either Oklahoma, Texas or Kansas, teams it plays in three of its last four games.

ODDS AND ENDS: Kansas was the last league school to be ranked No. 1 in the country, holding that spot in the final AP poll in 1997. ... Five Big 12 teams were ranked in the final AP poll last season. ... Three Big 12 players were among the first 10 players selected in the NBA draft: Iowa State's Marcus Fizer (fourth), Texas' Chris Mihm (seventh) and Missouri's Keyon Dooling (10th). No other league had more than two top 10 picks. ... Seven league coaches have at least 200 career wins—Eddie Sutton (659), Dave Bliss (479), Roy Williams (329), Kelvin Sampson (306), Rick Barnes (245), Jim Woodridge (229) and Larry Eustachy (206). ... Barnes is the only coach to take three different schools to the NCAA Tournament by his second year with the program. ... In the first three seasons of Big 12 play, 12 conference wins were enough to win the league title. Last year four teams won at least 12 league games. Iowa State won the crown with a 14-2 record. ... Kansas lost only two conference games in the first two seasons of Big 12 play. In the past two, the Jayhawks have lost 10. ... Kansas State has not posted a losing record at home since 1945-46, a streak that is in jeopardy this season.

XII BIG 12 CONFERENCE

Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
Bernard King	Texas A&M	16.9
Kareem Rush	Missouri	14.7
Jamahl Mosley	Colorado	14.0
Clarence Gilbert	Missouri	13.7
J.R. Raymond	Oklahoma	13.4
Name	School	RPG
Kimani Ffriend	Nebraska	8.8
Steffon Bradford	Nebraska	8.1
Terry Black	Baylor	7.7
Drew Gooden	Kansas	7.5
Kelvin Howell	Kansas State	7.3
Name	School	APG
Jamaal Tinsley	Iowa State	6.6
DeMarcus Minor	Baylor	5.8
Bernard King	Texas A&M	4.1
Jose Winston	Colorado	4.0
Jamaal Gilchrist	Texas A&M	3.9
Name	School	FG%
Aaron Jack	Texas A&M	62.5
Kenny Gregory	Kansas	57.7
Terry Black	Baylor	57.6
Nolan Johnson	Oklahoma	55.9
Jamahl Mosley	Colorado	54.1

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Iowa State	14	2	32	5	18	0	14	5
Texas	13	3	24	9	13	1	11	8
Oklahoma	12	4	27	7	13	2	14	5
Oklahoma State	12	4	27	7	14	1	13	6
Kansas	11	5	24	10	13	1	11	9
Missouri	10	6	18	13	10	5	8	8
Colorado	7	9	18	14	13	3	5	11
Nebraska	4	12	11	19	10	6	1	13
Baylor	4	12	14	15	11	7	3	8
Texas A&M	4	12	8	20	5	7	3	13
Texas Tech	3	13	12	16	8	7	4	9
Kansas State	2	14	9	19	8	7	1	12

Ranking the Recruiting

- Oklahoma. Immediate contributions are expected from several top-notch post additions.
- Oklahoma State. Good mix of size and speed, offense, defense.
- Texas. Maurice Evans, Brian Boddicker and James Thomas are impressive.
- Missouri. Ineligibility of F Travon Bryant drops class from the top spot.
- Iowa State. Several recruits will get into the rotation immediately.
- Texas A&M. Nick Anderson and Trayvean Scott will play right away.
- Baylor. The pickup of Kevin Henry won't pay off until next year but will have an impact.
- Texas Tech. A solid group of wing players and guards, but the class is lacking inside.
- Kansas. Only DeShawn Stevenson would have helped immediately.
- Kansas State. First-year coach Jim Woodridge went for a quick fix, signing five JCs.
- Colorado. Nothing spectacular. Two redshirt freshmen are ready to play inside.
- Nebraska. Mediocre post additions, average guards in an all-JC class.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Kansas	34	46.0	65.0	34.3	44.3	18.5	9.2	5.5	17.3	78.7
Iowa State	37	48.5	70.3	36.7	38.4	15.3	7.5	3.2	14.0	78.3
Oklahoma State	34	47.9	70.1	38.6	38.6	18.9	7.7	3.6	14.2	77.1
Colorado	32	42.6	68.6	33.9	40.2	14.9	8.6	3.6	14.2	75.2
Oklahoma	34	45.8	71.0	38.3	36.7	15.4	7.1	2.6	12.8	74.9
Texas	33	46.8	64.6	37.8	39.3	14.6	7.4	5.1	15.6	74.5
Missouri	31	42.3	71.0	36.2	33.5	13.7	8.9	2.0	13.3	74.3
Texas Tech	28	44.0	72.5	34.0	35.9	13.1	6.1	4.9	14.9	70.3
Nebraska	30	42.6	61.7	33.2	40.6	13.5	7.4	4.8	19.3	68.3
Kansas State	28	42.6	66.7	36.8	37.5	13.5	6.9	4.2	18.9	68.1
Baylor	29	42.3	64.4	32.4	35.6	14.8	8.9	4.5	17.1	66.7
Texas A&M	28	41.2	67.0	31.9	35.6	14.1	7.3	1.9	17.0	65.2

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Oklahoma	34	40.9	48.9	32.0	33.1	11.2	6.1	2.5	15.8	62.3
Oklahoma State	34	38.8	55.9	29.3	34.7	12.2	6.2	3.0	16.8	62.3
Texas	33	38.6	48.2	31.7	35.1	11.6	8.1	2.8	16.2	63.7
Iowa State	37	41.3	50.4	32.8	32.1	11.4	6.8	4.8	15.7	65.1
Baylor	29	43.3	45.3	35.6	36.5	15.2	8.0	1.9	16.4	66.7
Missouri	31	45.0	45.1	33.0	38.5	14.0	5.5	3.6	17.7	69.9
Kansas	34	40.0	51.5	34.2	36.0	14.2	8.6	3.8	18.3	70.1
Colorado	32	42.2	46.6	34.7	36.9	14.4	6.8	5.1	16.4	71.8
Texas Tech	28	41.3	41.1	35.1	39.3	15.4	8.0	3.1	12.7	70.3
Nebraska	30	42.6	45.9	34.5	37.1	15.7	9.7	4.3	14.4	74.0
Texas A&M	28	41.2	41.2	38.8	35.2	18.8	8.4	3.8	14.3	74.5
Kansas State	28	42.6	40.0	37.5	35.9	15.6	10.6	3.0	14.5	75.4

1. Kansas

NATIONAL RANK

7

Schedule

N4 Emporia State
N9-10 Coaches vs. Cancer Cl
N17 North Dakota
N20 Boise State
N25 Washburn
N27 Middle Tennessee State
N30 Illinois State
D7 at Wake Forest
D12 at DePaul
D16 Tulsa
D23 at Ohio State
D30 Southwest Missouri St.*
J6 at Texas Tech
J13 at Oklahoma
J17 Nebraska
J20 Texas A&M
J22 at Colorado
J27 Kansas State
J29 at Missouri
F3 Texas
F5 Iowa State
F10 Oklahoma State
F12 at Baylor
F17 at Iowa State
F21 Colorado
F25 at Nebraska
F28 at Kansas State
M4 Missouri
*Kansas City, Mo.

FRONT COURT: The Jayhawks are so good up front that center Eric Chenowith, who started as a sophomore and the first half of his junior season, may be coming off the bench. The reason is 6-9 sophomore Drew Gooden, who came on strong last season. In the season's most emotionally charged game, the regular-season finale against Missouri, Gooden had 20 points and 13 rebounds. He has made some silly plays, but with a little more control and concentration this season he could emerge as the Jayhawks' undeniable leader. Gooden was one of the stars of the national under-20 team this summer, and if he lives up to his potential he'll become an all-conference player this season. Sidekick Nick Collison has similar ability. He got off to a faster start than Gooden, endured a late-season shooting slump and finished well. Nobody on the team has a softer touch in the post, and Collison likes to play with his back to the basket. The 7-foot Chenowith went into a serious funk last season, losing minutes, his starting job and the second-team all-conference status he enjoyed as a sophomore. Theories abound. Some said he didn't like being pushed by the energetic freshmen. Others said he didn't work hard enough the previous offseason. What happens this year is anybody's guess. But the guy can play. He's a good rebounder for somebody who isn't bulky and has a nice outside touch. More than anything, Chenowith needs to play with a fire that was missing last year. Jeff Carey is a nice

complement to the front-line rotation. Kenny Gregory led KU in scoring last season by honing his game. He decided he wasn't a perimeter shooter, reducing his 3-point attempts from 51 to 13. His field-goal percentage increased from 47 to 58.

BACK COURT: Kirk Hinrich got off to a miserable shooting start, but he found his stroke in time for postseason play. Like the Gooden-Chenowith switch, Hinrich took over at point for Jeff Boschee, who had been getting some buzz for all-conference in the preseason. And why not? Boschee was the league's Freshman of the Year and MVP of the Big 12 Tournament in 1999. But when he lost his stroke in the second half of the season, Boschee's role changed. He's not a great assist man but can be a great shooter. So he went to the shooting guard slot. More minutes opened there when Luke Axtell left the team with a mysterious ailment after 20 games. Axtell, a gunner like Boschee, is back, so there's plenty of shots from the off-guard position.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Unlike last year when Gooden, Collison, Hinrich and Axtell all played big minutes in their first year, no newcomer figures to have that kind of impact. It would have been different if DeShawn Stevenson had enrolled, but he went the NBA route instead. Bryant Nash, who picked the Jayhawks over Memphis, will add depth at small forward and guard Mario Kinsey, who came to Lawrence to play basketball and football, redshirted in football so he can start hoop practice on time.

STRATEGY: With shooters like Axtell and Boschee and a slasher like Gregory, the Jayhawks would rather push it than play in the halfcourt, although Roy Williams says Kansas isn't disadvantaged in either mode. But teams that slowed down the Jayhawks had much success last season. Michigan State and Oklahoma State pounded Kansas, outscoring the Jayhawks by a combined score of 229-165 in winning three lopsided games.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

GOING FOR TWO: Gregory, who led the Jayhawks in scoring last season and shot 58 percent from the floor, has sharpened his game by reducing his number of 3-point attempts.

Jayhawks

Coach: Roy Williams (329-82, 12 years; 23-11 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 24-10. Big 12: 11-5/5th. Lost to Duke in NCAA East second round.
Last league title: 1998.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.
Site: Lawrence, Kan. **Website:** www.kuathletics.com
Home court: Allen Fieldhouse (16,300).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	G/F	Luke Axtell	6-10/220	Sr.	8.7	2.8	1.2	34.8	73.9	39.2
13	G	Jeff Boschee*	6-1/185	Jr.	10.0	1.7	2.9	39.6	80.9	41.5
22	F/C	Jeff Carey	6-10/247	Jr.	1.0	1.4	0.4	60.0	50.0	0.0
44	C	Eric Chenowith*	7-1/260	Sr.	8.6	5.6	1.1	45.7	79.5	0.0
4	F	Nick Collison*	6-9/240	So.	10.5	6.9	1.1	49.7	67.4	38.5
12	G	John Crider	6-4/180	Jr.	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	100.0	0.0
0	F	Drew Gooden	6-9/221	So.	10.6	7.5	1.1	45.1	65.9	31.2
20	G/F	Kenny Gregory*	6-5/205	Sr.	12.8	4.4	1.8	57.7	41.9	15.4
10	G	Kirk Hinrich*	6-3/180	So.	5.5	2.4	3.6	42.9	73.5	31.2
1	G	Mario Kinsey	6-2/175	Fr.	Versatile prospect can play either guard spot.					
15	F	Bryant Nash	6-6/190	Fr.	Williams says he may be KU's fastest player.					
34	F	Chris Zerbe	6-5/230	Jr.	Averaged 13 ppg in JC ranks last season.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Nick Bradford	6-7/205	7.6	4.8	3.4	50.2	63.3	17.4

2. Oklahoma

NATIONAL RANK

23

Schedule

N17-18 Sooner Invitational
N24-26 Big Island Invit.
D2 at Mississippi
D9 North Texas
D16 Coppin State
D20 Southwest Texas
D23 Arkansas
D29-30 All-College Tour.
J6 at Iowa State
J9 Texas A&M
J13 Kansas
J16 at Texas Tech
J20 at Kansas State
J24 Texas
J27 Nebraska
J31 at Baylor
F3 at Texas A&M
F7 Texas Tech
F10 at Texas
F14 at Oklahoma State
F17 Baylor
F19 at Missouri
F24 at Maryland
F28 Colorado
M3 Oklahoma State

FRONTCOURT: Jameel Heywood is the lone returnee on a depleted front line that will miss, among others, Eduardo Najera, the school's eighth all-time leading scorer and fifth all-time leading rebounder. Heywood, a 6-6, 230-pound senior, averaged only 3.3 points and 3.0 rebounds in 11.1 minutes a game last season. A power forward, Heywood has displayed little offensive skill away from the basket, but he doesn't take bad shots and he makes the ones he takes. Help in the paint will come from a solid group of newcomers led by Aaron McGhee. He averaged 26.5 points and nine rebounds a game at Vincennes (Ind.) Junior College and was MVP of last season's national tournament. Jozsef Szendrei and Ronnie Griffin, a pair of 6-9 junior college transfers, will battle for time inside as well.

BACKCOURT: This is Oklahoma's strength. The entire backcourt returns, including five players who saw extended action last season. It's a perfect situation for a team that often uses three- and four-guard line-ups. The competition for playing time should be fierce, but there should be plenty of room for all of them to contribute. The best of the group is Nolan Johnson, a 6-4 senior and Brooklyn, N.Y., native who has a standard New York playground-style game. A rock-solid, 215-pound lefthander,

Johnson is one of the toughest defensive assignments in the conference. J.R. Raymond and Hollis Price dominated the ball in their first season at Oklahoma. Raymond ran the point for much of the year and finished second on the team in scoring (13.4 ppg) and assists (3.4). Price, a 6-1 sophomore who took over the point-guard job late in the season, started 22 games, averaged 7.2 points and led the team with 3.5 assists a game. Tim Heskett lost his starting spot midway through the season, but he shot a team-best 41.7 percent from 3-point territory. Kelley Newton was not bad off the bench, either, shooting 39.8 percent from 3-point range.

KEY NEWCOMER: McGhee will be counted on to provide instant offense for the Sooners. With the outside shooting the team has, McGhee should have free rein from 15 feet and in to do damage, and with his nasty demeanor he will take advantage of it. He will challenge Texas' Maurice Evans for the league's newcomer of the year honor. Also keep an eye on JC All-American Daryan Selvy, who coach Kelvin Sampson admits is probably one of the best five players on the roster already. Selvy, who is 6-6, 215, and has long arms, will have to be patient because playing time on the wing could be tough to come by. But when he does get his opportunities, expect instant offense from him.

STRATEGY: Sampson is touted as a defensive coach, much of it because of his team's hard-nosed style. But his squads also can run-and-gun with the best of them. The Sooners will probably be more wide-open than ever this season, with a huge number of 3-pointers being launched. Few players in the conference can match Johnson's strength, Raymond's and Price's quickness and McGhee's and Selvy's explosiveness. The key for the Sooners will be finding enough rebounds to get their transition game going. With production from the post, the Sooners will make the league race a three-team battle with Kansas and Missouri. Surely, you're familiar with the adage about guard play and the NCAA Tournament. Keep that in mind when postseason play begins.



DUP VISHWANATH / TSN

BOOMER SOONER: Raymond made his first season at OU a memorable one by starting every game, hitting 95 3-point baskets and receiving a spot on the All-Big 12 third team.

DATA Sooners

Coach: Kelvin Sampson (130-62, 6 years; 306-210 overall, 17 years; 3-7 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 27-7. Big 12: 12-4/T3rd. Lost to Purdue in NCAA West second round).

Last league title: 1989 (Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.

Site: Norman, Okla.

Website: www.soonersports.com

Home court: Lloyd Noble Center (11,100).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	F	Johnnie Gilbert	6-7/220	Fr.	Vying for playing time in crowded frontcourt.					
25	F	Ronnie Griffin	6-9/235	Jr.	Ditto above.					
14	G	Tim Heskett	6-1/185	Sr.	7.4	1.5	1.4	40.9	81.8	41.7
12	G	Blake Johnson	6-1/170	Fr.	Only one Johnson on this team will play.					
5	G	Nolan Johnson*	6-4/215	Sr.	10.0	5.1	1.7	55.9	79.3	0.0
13	F	Aaron McGhee	6-8/240	Jr.	Could become one of Big 12's best shooters.					
20	G	Kelley Newton	6-2/190	Sr.	6.2	1.5	0.8	40.5	79.3	39.8
10	G	Hollis Price*	6-1/165	So.	7.2	2.2	3.5	44.8	83.3	37.3
11	G	J.R. Raymond*	6-2/175	Jr.	13.4	3.3	3.4	39.6	75.7	41.3
24	F	Daryan Selvy	6-6/215	Jr.	He's too good not to contribute this season.					
34	F	Jameel Heywood	6-6/230	Sr.	3.3	3.0	0.4	60.6	64.0	0.0
42	C	Jozsef Szendrei	6-9/230	Jr.	Expected back by Dec. 1 after knee surgery.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Victor Avila	6-10/255	5.2	4.4	0.6	49.0	68.6	100.0
F	Eduardo Najera*	6-8/240	18.4	9.2	2.1	45.5	68.8	22.0
C	Renzi Stone*	6-10/250	4.4	3.9	1.4	56.6	50.8	0.0

BIG 12

3. Missouri

NATIONAL RANK

25

Schedule

N14	Lincoln (Mo.)
N17	Savannah State
N22-25	Great Alaska Sh'tout
D2	Texas-Pan American
D6	DePaul
D9	Saint Louis
D16	at Iowa
D18	at Indiana
D21	Illinois*
D30	Stetson
J2	Coastal Carolina
J7	Nebraska
J10	at Colorado
J13	Iowa State
J16	at Kansas State
J20	at Virginia
J24	at Nebraska
J27	Texas Tech
J29	Kansas
F3	at Oklahoma State
F7	Kansas State
F11	at Iowa State
F14	Colorado
F17	at Texas A&M
F19	Oklahoma
F24	Baylor
F26	at Texas
M4	at Kansas
*St. Louis	

FRONTCOURT: Quin Snyder may have had the easiest sell in recruiting this past offseason: Come to Missouri and start in the frontcourt. T.J. Soyoye had to hold up the Tigers' front wall all by himself last season and did a nice job adjusting in his first year in Division I. He led Missouri in rebounding and field-goal percentage and showed a nice touch from 10-12 feet. But he was all the Tigers had. They were out-rebounded by five per game, and opponents recorded nearly twice as many blocks. Nowhere was the height disadvantage more profound than in the first-round NCAA Tournament loss to North Carolina. The Tar Heels won the board battle 55-25, and Brendan Haywood looked like Wilt Chamberlain. Snyder signed two big men but lost one. Arthur Johnson, a 6-9 forward from Detroit, will get immediate attention. The gem of the recruiting class, 6-8 Travon Bryant of Long Beach, Calif., didn't qualify academically. He was the program's fourth McDonald's All-American signee and first since Anthony Peeler more than a decade ago. Pat Schumacher, the only true center on the roster, should be better after having fully recovered from shoulder surgery. But his thin body is a real detriment in the paint. Small forward is in great shape with Kareem Rush and recruit Rickey Paulding. An NCAA suspension limited Rush to 22 games last season, but that didn't prevent him from setting a school scoring record for freshmen. He turned it up in league play, averaging 18.2

points, third best in the Big 12.

BACKCOURT: With Keyon Dooling, it may have been the best in the nation. Without him, it's still terrific, although the Tigers must reestablish the point guard position. Clarence Gilbert can play the point, but as last year proved, he's better suited to the shooter's role. Gilbert can get remarkably hot, as Kansas found out in a 27-point performance last season. Brian Grawer started at the point earlier in his career, but like Gilbert, he needs help getting his shot. Grawer went through a tough junior season as his 3-point percentage fell from nearly 50 in 1998-99 to 33 percent. Of the two, Grawer figures to get the first look at the point. Eventually, the position will go to recruit Wesley Stokes, Bryant's friend from Long Beach. Dooling's departure surprised many, but not Snyder, who recruited Stokes with the possibility in mind. "Keyon was on track for this whether it was (this year) or after his junior year," Snyder said. "You have to plan for it."

KEY NEWCOMER: Johnson is the muscle the Tigers need to supplement Soyoye. He's a bruising power forward who averaged 19 points and 14 boards at Pershing High in Detroit. Johnson and fellow Detroit recruit Paulding survived a recruiting scare when Missouri self-reported minor violations involving the transportation of the players' parents to Columbia. Both players signed early, pleasing the Missouri faithful.

STRATEGY: Snyder prefers an uptempo Duke-like attack, but he played the cards he was dealt a year ago, which meant nearly all guards all the time. Once again, Missouri's strength is in the backcourt with Gilbert and Grawer, both of whom can turn a game around quickly when they're hitting their shots. But the Tigers won't rely as much on the 3-pointer this season. A year ago, their 804 tries from behind the arc were 117 more than the next team in the Big 12. Don't expect a repeat of that performance.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

A SHOOTER FIRST: Missouri needs help at the point, but Gilbert, who can hit the 3 and more than tripled his scoring average last year, may be best suited to playing off-guard.

Tigers

Coach: Quin Snyder (18-13, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 18-13. Big 12: 10-6/6th. Lost to North Carolina in NCAA South first round.
Last league title: 1994 (Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Columbia, Mo. **Website:** www.mutigers.com
Home court: Hearn Center (13,300).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	Justin Gage	6-5/225	So.	2.4	2.5	0.2	40.4	53.8	10.0
2	G	Clarence Gilbert*	6-2/197	Jr.	13.7	3.7	2.3	38.1	77.4	37.8
12	G	Brian Grawer*	6-0/165	Sr.	7.4	2.8	2.8	35.1	90.5	32.8
50	C	Arthur Johnson	6-9/245	Fr.	Expected to supply much-needed muscle.					
15	G	Josh Kroenke	6-4/184	So.	2.7	0.8	0.3	39.1	60.0	37.3
31	G/F	Johnnie Parker	6-6/221	Sr.	6.1	4.4	0.8	44.1	60.6	36.8
23	G	Rickey Paulding	6-5/200	Fr.	Could play a lot in first season with team.					
21	F	Kareem Rush*	6-6/214	So.	14.7	4.3	1.5	50.5	75.6	42.6
54	C	Pat Schumacher	6-11/242	Jr.	1.6	1.3	0.0	40.0	68.8	0.0
33	F/C	Tajudeen Soyoye*	6-9/236	Sr.	8.8	6.3	0.8	51.0	63.1	0.0
3	F	Kenge Stevenson	6-5/230	Jr.	0.4	1.0	0.0	20.0	50.0	0.0
4	G	Wesley Stokes	5-10/160	Fr.	Travon Bryant's pal will play; Bryant won't.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Keyon Dooling*	6-3/184	15.3	2.7	3.6	38.9	74.3	34.7
F	Jeff Hafer	6-5/212	7.0	3.6	1.9	48.8	61.1	34.4

4. Texas

NATIONAL RANK

26

Schedule

N13-24 Navy*
N28 Texas-San Antonio
D2 Southwest Texas State
D9 South Florida**
D16 Texas A&M-C. Christi
D20 at Houston
D23 Illinois
D28 UNC Asheville
D30 Utah
J6 Oklahoma State
J10 Kansas State
J13 at Nebraska
J15 Connecticut
J17 at Texas A&M
J20 Baylor
J24 at Oklahoma
J27 at Arizona
J30 Texas A&M
F3 at Kansas
F7 at Colorado
F10 Oklahoma
F13 Texas Tech
F17 at Oklahoma State
F21 at Baylor
F24 Iowa State
F26 Missouri
M3 at Texas Tech
*Preseason NIT
**Tampa, Fla.

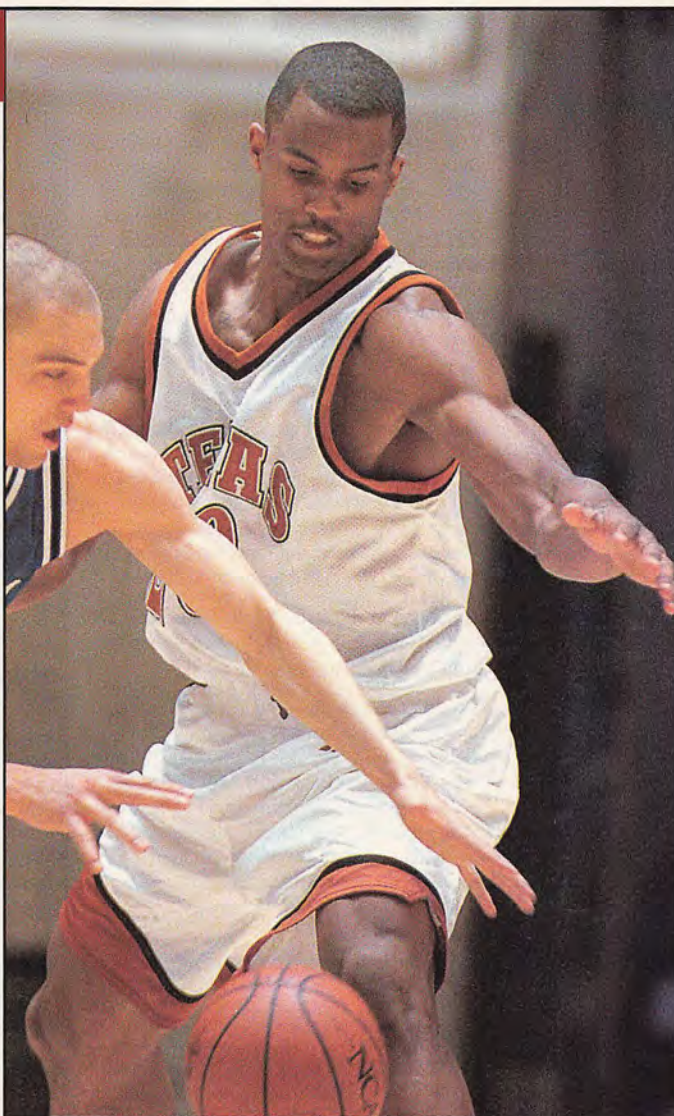
FRONTCOURT: How is this for unbelievable? Despite the early departure of All-American center Chris Mihm and the loss of Nnadubem Gabe Muoneke, a four-year starter at power forward, the Longhorns' frontcourt might be better this season than last. And if not better, certainly deeper, thanks to a solid recruiting class. Chris Owens, a 6-9 junior who came on strong late in the season when he replaced Muoneke in the starting lineup, is expected to be a dominant force on both ends. Owens experienced difficulty finding his role in his first season at Texas after sitting out a year following his transfer from Tulane. Few post players in the country can match him physically. Owens, who is versatile enough to play power forward or center, should get plenty of help from returnees William Wyatt and Chris Ogden, as well as freshmen Brian Boddicker, James Thomas and Jason Klotz. Not having Mihm and Muoneke clogging up the paint, plus the added depth, will allow the Longhorns to increase the tempo, a dramatic change from how they played in their first two seasons under Rick Barnes.

BACKCOURT: It took Darren Kelly, a junior college transfer a year ago, a little time to become adjusted to Division I ball, but he came on strong in the second half of the season. He hit an impressive 45.2 percent on 3-pointers, best on the team, and was Texas' third-leading scorer. Junior Maurice Evans will play the swing spot for

the Longhorns, who have used a three-guard lineup for the last two years. The 6-5 Evans is strong down low, so he could get some post-up opportunities. But it will be his outside shooting that hurts defenses the most. Freshman Brandon Mouton, also 6-5 and a good shooter, will likely spell Evans. Point guard could be a problem because of a lack of experience. Freddie Williams, a 5-11 transfer from Mississippi Delta CC, will probably run the point, with some competition from sophomore Roosevelt Brown. Brown missed nearly half of last season because of the NCAA's delay in declaring him eligible, and he never found a spot in the rotation when he did play. Freshmen Royal Ivey could see action at both guard spots. It will probably take some time for the backcourt to gel, but it should be dangerous by the time conference play begins.

KEY NEWCOMER: Evans is a proven Division I scorer. Before sitting out last season after transferring to Texas, he led the Missouri Valley Conference and was ninth in the nation at 22.6 points a game as a sophomore at Wichita State in 1998-99. An excellent shooter (42.1 percent from 3-point range, 79.2 percent from the foul line at Wichita State), Evans could be one of the top scorers in the Big 12 this season. He tortured teammates in practice last year and is itching to do the same to opponents.

STRATEGY: Contrary to popular belief, Barnes would like his team to run, just not to the helter-skelter pace favored by his predecessor, Tom Penders. The past two seasons, the Longhorns walked the ball up the floor and pounded it inside to Mihm, but look for a quicker tempo this season to go with a physical man-to-man defense. The young talent will have to adjust to the physical nature of the Big 12, but with a team deeper than any squad in the league except for Kansas, the Longhorns will be in the hunt for the league title. A third consecutive NCAA Tournament bid under Barnes seems certain.



TIME TO SHINE: Owens struggled a bit finding his role last season in a crowded Texas frontcourt. But with many of those guys now gone, he could have a big year.

DATA Longhorns

Coach: Rick Barnes (43-22, 2 years; 245-156 overall, 13 years; 3-8 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 24-9. Big 12: 13-3/2nd. Lost to LSU in NCAA West second round.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Austin, Texas.

Website: www.TexasSports.com

Home court: Frank Erwin Center (16,175).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	F	Brian Boddicker	6-9/225	Fr.	Won state title w/ Brown at Duncanville (TX) HS.					
1	G	Roosevelt Brown	6-3/183	So.	1.5	0.2	0.1	58.3	33.3	0.0
5	G/F	Maurice Evans	6-5/220	Jr.	Transfer expected to have immediate impact. Slipped under recruiters' radar, but has skills.					
24	G	Royal Ivey	6-4/190	Fr.	10.0	3.1	2.5	46.6	68.5	45.2
25	G	Darren Kelly*	6-3/190	Sr.						
44	C	Jason Klotz	6-10/235	Fr.	Meant to replace Mihm & Muoneke inside.					
3	G/F	Brandon Mouton	6-5/215	Fr.	Top 50 recruit, slasher, scorer, can play SG/SF.					
45	F	Chris Ogden	6-7/215	So.	1.8	1.1	0.7	39.5	44.4	30.8
20	F	Chris Owens*	6-9/245	Jr.	9.4	5.6	0.5	49.8	57.3	30.8
0	F	James Thomas	6-8/220	Fr.	Rebounding force, added weight for college ball.					
10	G	Freddie Williams	5-11/178	Jr.	JC transfer (Mississippi Delta) could start at PG.					
2	F	William Wyatt	6-8/222	So.	0.7	1.4	0.3	41.2	0.0	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%	
C	Chris Mihm*	7-0/262	17.7	10.5	0.7	52.3	70.7	46.7	
F	Gabe Muoneke*	6-7/250	13.7	6.3	1.9	52.7	60.0	21.1	
G	Ivan Wagner*	6-1/195	9.1	3.1	4.7	43.8	66.4	41.8	
G	William Clay	6-2/190	7.6	3.4	1.7	36.6	72.7	32.2	
G	Lawrence Williams	6-1/190	Transferred to Louisiana Tech						

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BIG 12

5. Iowa State

NATIONAL RANK

33

FRONTCOURT: Had Marcus Fizer, who went from first-team all-conference to the fourth pick in the NBA draft in one year, returned, the Cyclones might be preseason No. 1. Without him, they're not in the top 25. The Cyclones won't fill the void, but

they do get back at full strength Martin Rancik, who battled injuries throughout last season. Paul Shirley has the potential to average double figures. The program's top player in a highly regarded recruiting class is Tyra Pearson, who was a rebounding force in junior college.

BACKCOURT: Jamaal Tinsley could be the nation's best point guard. Few opposing point guards could stop his penetration last season, and in the NCAA Tournament he averaged 17.5 points and 6.5 assists. Kantrail Horton will be the team's designated bomber as the shooting guard. Iowa State guards are about more than passing and shooting under coach Larry Eustachy. Tinsley was the team's third leading rebounder, and Horton muscled for more boards than some of the Cyclones' big men.

KEY NEWCOMER: Pearson is no Fizer, but then Fizer wasn't a polished product in his first season in Ames. Pearson will give Iowa State a rugged frontcourt presence.

STRATEGY: What worked brilliantly for the Cyclones last season—getting the ball to Fizer—won't work this season. The Cyclones won't lose inches up front but will lose muscle. More than last year, the focus shifts to the backcourt, where Tinsley will set the tempo. He's the ultimate red-light, green-light player who will push Iowa State when he sees opportunity and pull it back—more to Eustachy's liking—when there's none.

Cyclones

Coach: Larry Eustachy (47-20, 2 years; 206-106 overall, 10 years; 3-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 32-5. Big 12: 14-2/1st. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA Midwest final.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Ames, Iowa.

Website: www.cyclones.com

Home court: Hilton Coliseum (14,092).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
10	F	Omar Bynum	6-7/210	So.	Expected to provide depth in 2000-2001.					
30	G	Zach Fortune	6-2/180	Fr.	True freshman probably won't play much.					
12	G	Brandon Hawkins	6-3/185	So.	3.2	2.2	0.8	40.0	66.7	0.0
4	G	Kantrail Horton*	6-1/225	Sr.	8.7	4.1	2.6	38.1	78.0	36.8
	G/F	Marcus Jefferson	6-5/185	So.	Chicago native transferred from Providence.					
23	F	Tyra Pearson	6-7/210	Jr.	Big things are expected this season.					
21	F	Shane Power	6-5/210	Fr.	Will vie for time in a depleted frontcourt.					
51	F	Martin Rancik	6-8/230	Sr.	5.5	3.8	0.4	42.0	77.8	9.1
45	F	Paul Shirley	6-10/230	Sr.	7.7	4.4	0.5	59.7	66.3	0.0
	C	Andrew Skoglund	7-1/220	Fr.	Minnesota native is long-range project.					
24	G	Jake Sullivan	6-1/180	Fr.	Could be a contributor in first year.					
11	G	Jamaal Tinsley*	6-3/175	Sr.	11.0	5.1	6.6	37.8	67.5	24.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Marcus Fizer*	6-8/265	22.8	7.7	1.1	58.2	73.2	35.7
F	Stevie Johnson*	6-4/225	9.1	6.1	1.2	66.3	62.2	50.0
G	Michael Nurse*	6-1/175	12.5	2.7	2.2	43.1	75.0	42.3

Schedule

N21 Morningside	D21-23 Pearl Harbor Cls.	J24 Baylor	F24 at Texas
N24 Texas Southern	D30 Western Carolina	J28 at Texas A&M	F28 Texas Tech
N27 at Northern Iowa	J2 Illinois-Chicago	J31 at Colorado	M3 Nebraska
D1-2 Cyclone Challenge	J6 Oklahoma	F3 Kansas State	
D5 Tennessee Tech	J8 at Oklahoma State	F5 at Kansas	
D9 at Iowa	J13 at Missouri	F11 Missouri	
D17 Drake	J16 Colorado	F17 Kansas	
	J20 at Nebraska	F21 at Kansas State	

6. Colorado

NATIONAL RANK

69

FRONTCOURT: The Buffaloes have tended to build their attack around an all-conference-type player, and for the first time under Ricardo Patton, that player is a power forward. Jamahl Mosley quietly put together a solid junior season, leading the team in

rebounding and field-goal percentage last season. And Mosley doesn't have to do it all up front, either. Stephane Pelle set a school freshmen record with 218 rebounds, and center Richard Fox is No. 2 on the list with 191. Colorado received a blow, however, when freshman Jaime Lloreda didn't make grades.

BACKCOURT: Gone is all-conference guard Jaquay Walls, whose eligibility expired, and Kyle Williams, who transferred. The Buffaloes need point guard Jose Winston and shooting guard Nick Mohr to step up. Winston is a terrific defender, but he doesn't score much. Mohr also needs to improve as a shooter.

KEY NEWCOMER: The team lost its impact recruit in Lloreda, but guard Justin Harbert made the biggest impression over the summer. In an All-Star game in Texas that featured six other Big 12 recruits, Harbert led all scorers with 25 points, including five of seven from behind the arc, in 23 minutes.

STRATEGY: Patton is much like Oklahoma's Kelvin Sampson when it comes to finding a star player and building the team around him. That player is Mosley this season. When he took over as Colorado's head coach midway through the 1995-96 season, Patton brought a sense of discipline to the program. It translates to the floor. The Buffaloes turn it over less and rebound better than their opponents. What's keeping them from the NCAA Tournament is simply a lack of overall talent.

Buffaloes

Coach: Ricardo Patton (75-62, 5 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 18-1. Big 12: 7-9/7th. Lost to Southern Illinois in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1969 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Boulder, Colo.

Website: www.cu-sports.com

Home court: Coors Events Center (11,076).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Chevis Brimmer	5-11/165	Fr.	Cat-quick, his future is at point guard.					
50	C	Richard Fox*	6-10/250	So.	6.5	6.6	1.0	47.7	46.9	0.0
33	G	Justin Harbert	6-1/190	Fr.	Player of Year in San Antonio last season.					
44	G/F	D.J. Harrison	6-7/220	Jr.	Sat out last season to work on his shooting.					
21	G	Nick Mohr	6-4/180	Jr.	8.6	2.5	1.7	38.6	74.5	34.1
30	G/F	Michel Morandais	6-5/200	Fr.	Grew up on Caribbean nation of Guadeloupe.					
5	F	Jamahl Mosley*	6-8/225	Sr.	14.0	7.1	0.8	54.1	74.0	0.0
34	F	Stephane Pelle	6-8/235	So.	8.5	6.8	0.8	41.0	71.9	100.0
23	F	Ernest Renfro	6-7/220	Sr.	1.4	1.2	0.2	36.6	37.5	0.0
43	G/F	Blair Wilson	6-7/230	Fr.	All-time top scorer in Colorado HS hoops.					
3	G	Jose Winston*	6-0/180	Jr.	3.2	3.2	4.0	36.3	46.2	28.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jaquay Walls*	6-3/180	17.0	3.2	4.5	44.1	75.4	38.8
F	Will Smith*	6-6/206	6.3	2.6	0.7	39.6	68.0	15.4
G	Kyle Williams	6-6/187	Transferred.					

Schedule

N16-19 Top of World Cl.	D28 Murray State	J22 Kansas	F21 at Kansas
N26 St. Joseph's	D30 Long Beach State	J27 Oklahoma State	F28 at Oklahoma
N28 Loyola Marymount	J2 Coppin State	J31 Iowa State	M3 Kansas State
D3 Texas-Arlington	J6 at Baylor	F3 at Nebraska	
D6 at St. Mary's	J10 Missouri	F7 Texas	
D9 at California	J13 Texas A&M	F10 at Kansas State	
D23 Colorado State	J16 at Iowa State	F14 at Missouri	
	J20 at Texas Tech	F17 Nebraska	

7. Oklahoma State

NATIONAL RANK

72

FRONTCOURT: Fredrik Jonzen and Andre Williams are the only returning players who saw meaningful action last season. Jonzen, a 6-10 junior, came on strong late in the year, scoring a career-high 21 points against Pepperdine in the NCAA Tournament. He

averaged only 9.2 points a game but might be asked to be the go-to guy this season. Williams played 11.5 minutes a game as a freshman, showing some defensive skills. Jason Keep, a 290-pound bruiser, and Antoine Broxsie, a 6-10 transfer from Minnesota, will be counted on to bring a defensive presence to a young team. The Cowboys have plenty of big bodies and some solid athletes up front, but few scorers and little experience.

BACKCOURT: The backcourt is as inexperienced as the frontcourt—not one player has suited up for the Cowboys before. Victor Williams will probably inherit the point guard position. A transfer from Illinois State, Williams sat out last season but did practice with the team. Junior college transfer Maurice Baker should hold off a group of high schoolers at off guard. Inconsistency should be expected, and it could take coach Eddie Sutton half the season to settle on a rotation.

KEY NEWCOMER: Because of his experience, Williams is the most important addition to the team. He was the Missouri Valley Conference Freshman of the Year two seasons ago.

STRATEGY: Who knows? With so many newcomers in the mix, the style of play has yet to be determined. But Sutton's teams always play tough defense and will run when possible. Having to replace six seniors, the Cowboys will be hard-pressed to finish in the top half in the conference race.

DATA

Cowboys

Coach: Eddie Sutton (229-95, 10 years; 632-252 overall, 30 years; 32-21 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 27-7. Big 12: 12-4/T3rd. Lost to Florida in NCAA East Final.

Last league title: 1991 (tie, Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Stillwater, Okla.

Website: www.okstate.com

Home court: Gallagher-Iba Arena (13,611)

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	David Anderson	6-8/200	Fr.	One of six D-1 signees in 2000 from Hargrave.					
1	G	Maurice Baker	6-1/175	Jr.	JC transfer from Dixie College in Utah.					
21	F	Antoine Broxsie	6-10/240	Jr.	Transferred from Minnesota.					
14	F	Terrance Crawford	6-6/220	Fr.	Widely considered best prep in OK as a senior.					
11	G	Nate Fleming	6-0/180	Fr.	Walk-on redshirted '99-00 after breaking nose.					
12	F	Fredrik Jonzen*	6-10/230	Jr.	9.2	7.0	0.9	51.8	74.8	0.0
43	C	Jason Keep	6-10/290	Jr.	2.0	1.0	0.3	66.7	46.2	0.0
24	G	Bernard Kidd	6-4/190	Fr.	SG put up 14.8 ppg and 10.1 rpg as HS senior.					
	G	Ivan McFarlin	6-8/210	Fr.	Won three 5A state (TX) titles in high school					
40	F	Andre Williams	6-7/210	So.	3.5	4.1	0.6	56.9	51.0	0.0
5	G	Victor Williams	5-10/170	So.	Transferred from Illinois State.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Desmond Mason*	6-5/215	18.0	6.6	1.5	49.9	76.7	43.0
F	Brian Montonati*	6-10/220	12.1	7.2	1.6	54.4	69.0	50.0
G	Joe Adkins*	6-1/190	11.1	3.5	4.1	36.6	83.1	35.0
G	Doug Gottlieb*	6-1/180	5.9	2.5	8.6	41.0	18.4	43.3

Schedule

N21 UMKC*	D19 Arkansas-Little Rock	J20 St. Gregory's	F21 at Texas A&M
N28 at North Texas	D22 Lamar	J24 Texas A&M	F24 Kansas State
D2 UNLV**	D30 at San Diego State	J27 at Colorado	F27 Baylor
D6 at Wichita State	J3 Texas-San Antonio	J30 at Texas Tech	M3 at Oklahoma
D9 Arkansas*	J6 at Texas	F3 Missouri	* in Tulsa, Okla.
D16 Northwestern State**	J8 Iowa State	F6 at Nebraska	** in Oklahoma City, Okla.
	J13 Texas Tech	F10 at Kansas	
	J17 at Baylor	F14 Oklahoma	
		F17 Texas	

8. Texas Tech

NATIONAL RANK

77

FRONTCOURT: The biggest boost comes from the return of a pair of injured forwards. Andy Ellis, a junior, dislocated his left shoulder in the 14th game and did not return. A stringy 6-11, Ellis was on target to be considered among the elite big men in the

league before his injury. Cliff Owens, a 6-8 senior, hurt his foot in the offseason and sat out the entire 1999-2000 season. He started 23 games two years ago and led the Red Raiders in rebounding. Johnny Phillips, a disappointment in three seasons, will get minutes in the post. Jayson Mitchell, a 6-4 senior, should hold off freshman Brannon Hays at small forward.

BACKCOURT: Inexperience reigns following the departures of Rayford Young and James Ware, both of whom started all 28 games a year ago. Jamal Brown and Marcus Shropshire figure to handle the point guard duties. Moses Malone Jr. needs to find his stroke and confidence after a spotty, injury-plagued first season in Lubbock. Freshmen Andre Emmett, Rodney Bass and Mikey Marshall will battle to give the team an athletic presence.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Red Raiders hope Brown, a JC transfer who averaged 26.5 ppg last season, will ease the loss of Young. Brown won't have to score 26 points for Tech to win games. If he runs the point and gets the ball to Ellis, Owens and Malone, he could be one of the conference's top assist men.

STRATEGY: With little bulk off the bench and little experience in the backcourt, Tech will probably play at a medium speed. James Dickey would like to play faster, but he just doesn't have the horses. Though the newcomers will provide depth and quickness, their inexperience will hurt in the rugged Big 12.

DATA

Red Raiders

Coach: James Dickey (157-105, 9 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 12-16. Big 12: 3-13/11th.

Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Lubbock, Texas.

Website: www.texastech.com

Home court: United Spirit Arena (15,050).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Rodney Bass	6-5/200	Fr.	Prep school year added maturity for SG/SF.					
	G	Jamal Brown	6-0/185	Jr.	Doesn't need to score—needs to distribute.					
55	C	Andy Ellis*	6-11/225	Jr.	16.9	8.9	0.8	50.3	73.8	20.0
	G	Andre Emmett	6-5/205	Fr.	Physical SG (20.8 ppg in HS) adds intensity.					
	F	Brannon Hays	6-8/200	Fr.	Reliable rebounder, will try to bulk up.					
12	G/F	Ronald Hobbs	6-6/180	So.	3.7	2.2	0.5	41.5	50.0	27.3
4	G	Moses Malone, Jr.	6-4/205	Jr.	2.9	1.8	0.6	23.2	79.3	18.9
	G	Mikey Marshall	6-4/195	Fr.	Perimeter player with good court vision.					
50	G	Jayson Mitchell	6-4/195	Sr.	7.5	4.1	1.5	40.9	74.6	35.6
13	F	Cliff Owens	6-8/240	Sr.	Averaged 10.4 ppg, 7.0 rpg in 1998-99.					
	G	Marcus Shropshire	6-0/200	Fr.	Considered top PG in state of Texas in '99-00.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Rayford Young*	5-11/180	17.8	4.0	4.0	43.3	83.9	35.0
F	Mario Layne*	6-7/195	12.7	5.1	2.6	49.2	65.4	23.1
G/F	James Ware*	6-5/210	11.3	2.9	2.3	42.9	75.8	39.9
F	Brodney Kennard*	6-8/210	6.6	7.0	1.4	44.3	73.5	0.0

Schedule

N22 Prairie View A&M	D21 at Oral Roberts	J27 at Missouri	F28 at Iowa State
N25 at La.-Lafayette	D28 at TCU	J30 Oklahoma State	M3 Texas
N29 TBA	J2 New Mexico State	F3 at Baylor	*Indiana Classic (Bloomington)
D2 Stephen F. Austin	J6 Kansas	F7 at Oklahoma	
D5 UTEP	J9 Baylor	F10 Texas A&M	
D8 Ball State#	J13 at Oklahoma State	F13 at Texas	
D9 Indiana or W. Mich.*	J16 Oklahoma	F18 at Kansas State	
	J20 Colorado	F21 Nebraska	
		F24 at Texas A&M	

9. Baylor

NATIONAL RANK

129

FRONTCOURT: The Bears had a big hole in the middle last season and might again, but at least second-year coach Dave Bliss will have more options. Three of Baylor's five newcomers are listed at 6-7 or taller. Terry Black, a 6-5 leaper, is the top returnee and should better his numbers of 11.2 ppg and 7.7 rpg. Black, who led the conference in steals at 2.7 per game, managed to shoot 57.6 percent from the floor despite the lack of a jump shot. Greg Davis, a 6-9 transfer from New Mexico, will likely start at power forward. Davis started for Bliss in his last season with the Lobos and is a solid defender, good rebounder and sharp passer. Developing sophomores John Flippen and Steve Othoro will have to improve to be able to contribute much at center, but the Bears will probably use a small lineup much of the time anyway.

BACKCOURT: DeMarcus Minor and Wendell Greenleaf give the Bears a solid combo at guard, but they could be pushed for playing time by transfers Chad Elsey and Shon Robinson. Minor, a 6-4 senior, could afford to give up some of his conference-best 38.9 minutes a game in league play. Greenleaf came off the bench for most of his freshman season and finished strong.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Davis could be the low-post defender Baylor has lacked, and Elsey brings outside punch to help offset the loss of gunner Tevis Stukes.

STRATEGY: Bliss still doesn't have enough depth to play his preferred style and be successful in the Big 12, but the Bears should continue to progress. Last year they won four league games after going 0-16 in '98-99. A middle-of-the pack finish is about the best that can be hoped for this season.

Bears

Coach: Dave Bliss (14-15, 1 year; 479-286 overall, 25 years; 8-11 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 14-15. Big 12: 4-12/T8th.

Last league title: 1950 (tie, SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Waco, Texas.

Website: www.baylorsportsnet.com

Home court: Ferrell Center (10,284).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
24	F	Terry Black*	6-5/215	Sr.	11.2	7.7	3.0	57.6	39.3	26.7
32	F	Greg Davis	6-9/205	Jr.	Started for Bliss at New Mexico in 1998-99.					
4	F	Michael DeGrate	6-8/210	Fr.	Class 3A Player of Year in Texas last season.					
30	G	Chad Elsey	6-7/210	Jr.	SMU transfer should play a lot right away.					
41	C	John Flippen	7-2/290	So.	2.3	2.7	0.1	49.1	52.2	0.0
20	G	Wendell Greenleaf	6-2/195	So.	4.1	1.3	1.4	36.4	52.0	29.9
50	F	Logan Kosmalski	6-8/210	Fr.	Averaged 18.8 ppg and 10.1 rpg in HS last year.					
23	G	DeMarcus Minor*	6-4/215	Sr.	11.4	4.4	5.8	39.2	77.7	29.6
55	C	Steve Othoro	6-10/260	So.	0.6	1.1	0.1	100	0.0	0.0
21	G	Shon Robinson	6-2/180	Jr.	Transfer from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M					
13	G	Matt Sayman	6-3/190	Fr.	Averaged 15 ppg and 7.3 apg as HS senior.					
12	G	Andre White	6-0/175	So.	Another contender in a crowded backcourt.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Ben Echols*	6-11/240	6.6	6.7	0.4	62.6	46.6	0.0
G	Tevis Stukes*	5-11/185	17.6	2.4	1.9	36.6	74.6	35.0
F	Jamie Kendrick*	6-8/210	8.8	5.9	1.0	34.4	75.4	33.0

Schedule

N22 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D23 at North Texas	J20 at Texas	F21 Texas
N25 Hardin Simmons	D28 Rice	J24 at Iowa State	F24 at Missouri
D2 Ark.-Little Rock	D30 Montana	J31 Oklahoma	F27 at Oklahoma State
D9 St. Edward's	J2 Texas Southern	F3 Texas Tech	M3 Texas A&M
D16 at Cal St.-Fullerton	J6 Colorado	F6 at Texas A&M	
D19 Grambling	J9 at Texas Tech	F10 Nebraska	
D21 Liberty	J13 at Kansas State	F12 Kansas	
	J17 Oklahoma State	F17 at Oklahoma	

10. Nebraska

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Kimani Ffriend earned second-team all-conference honors mostly on the strength of his shot blocking and rebounding. Ffriend led the league with 2.8 blocks and was fourth in rebounding at 8.8 per game. His offensive game needs polish, but he did shoot 53.7 percent. Another junior college transfer, Steffon Bradford, turned in serviceable numbers, including a 17-rebound performance against Kansas.

BACKCOURT: It got much better when Cookie Belcher was granted a medical redshirt. Belcher played in only four games last year while recovering from a broken bone in his hand when Nebraska shut him down. He leads all Division I players in steals with 271. Danny Walker gets the first look at point guard. Cary Cochran, who shot 38.7 on treys last season, is the team's designated bomber. Ballhandling is a major problem for Nebraska, which committed 146 more turnovers than opponents last year.

KEY NEWCOMER: Take your pick of transfer point guards. Kevin Augustine played parts of two seasons at Southern California. As a freshman, he started 10 times and averaged 6.2 points. He played in only seven games as a sophomore before transferring to Fullerton College, where he spent 1½ years and didn't play. John Robinson averaged 10.2 points and started 30 of 34 games in 1999 for a 25-9 New Mexico team that reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

STRATEGY: Under Barry Collier, Butler practiced patience and worked for the good shot, nothing like the fast pace of recent good Nebraska teams. Can these Cornhuskers adjust? Most weren't recruited with much of a playbook in mind.

Cornhuskers

Coach: Barry Collier (first year; 196-132 overall, 11 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 11-19. Big 12: 4-12/T8th.

Last league title: 1950 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Lincoln, Neb.

Website: www.huskers.com

Home court: Bob Devaney Sports Center (13,500).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Kevin Augustine	6-0/185	Jr.	Will battle Robinson for point guard job.					
30	G	Cookie Belcher*	6-4/205	Sr.	6.0	3.8	4.0	62.5	57.1	0.0
15	F	Steffon Bradford*	6-6/240	Sr.	11.1	8.1	0.8	50.6	69.7	50.0
41	F	Ben Chesnut	6-6/210	Fr.	Omaha product is in frontcourt mix.					
3	G	Cary Cochran	6-1/185	Jr.	7.9	2.5	2.7	37.8	80.0	38.7
20	F/C	Brian Conklin	6-11/205	Fr.	Was redshirted last year to improve strength.					
31	C	Kimani Ffriend*	6-11/220	Sr.	12.0	8.8	0.4	53.7	50.7	0.0
11	G	Rodney Fields	6-2/210	Sr.	4.2	1.9	1.6	36.6	62.9	18.5
	G	Kedrick Ford	6-2/190	Jr.	Collier's first recruit looks for playing time.					
32	G	John Robinson II	6-1/180	Jr.	Was a starter on a good New Mexico team.					
0	G	Danny Walker*	6-1/190	Sr.	9.6	2.0	3.3	35.8	77.6	36.6
34	G	Craig Wortmann	6-4/195	Sr.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	25.0	0.0
	G/F	Danai Young	6-4/190	Jr.	Has good rebounding skills for a wing player.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Larry Florence*	6-5/220	13.0	5.4	2.7	40.1	65.7	25.0
F	Louis Truscott	6-7/205	Transferred.					

Schedule

N17-18 CoSIDA Classic	D20-22 San Juan Shoot.	J24 Missouri	F21 at Texas Tech
N18 at Oral Roberts	D28 at Minnesota	J27 at Oklahoma	F25 Kansas
N21 Eastern Illinois	D30 Murray State	J30 at Kansas State	F28 Texas A&M
N27 Winthrop	J2 Creighton	F3 Colorado	M3 at Iowa State
D2 at Pittsburgh	J7 at Missouri	F6 Oklahoma State	*Sunrise, Fla.
D8-9 Husker Classic	J13 Texas	F10 at Baylor	
D16 Miami (Fla.)*	J17 at Kansas	F14 Kansas State	
	J20 Iowa State	F17 at Colorado	

11. Texas A&M

NATIONAL RANK
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FRONTCOURT: Coach Melvin Watkins will likely rotate a number of players up front. Sophomores Larry Scott and Tomas Ressa split time at small forward last year and will likely dominate the minutes there again. The Aggies return veteran power forward Aaron

Jack, who was granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA. They also welcome Keith Bean, a transfer from NC State. The most important addition, however, will be freshman Nick Anderson, who should become a starter the day he enrolls.

BACKCOURT: Bernard King and Jamaal Gilchrist started all 28 games last season. King was sensational, picking up Big 12 Freshman of the Year honors. A lanky 6-4, King was the only freshman in the country to average at least 15 points, four rebounds and four assists per game. Gilchrist was asked to take over at the point after '98-99 leading scorer Clifton Cook was ruled ineligible. Gilchrist, who was expected to play 10 to 15 minutes a game, did well running the show for nearly 33 mpg. Freshman Trayvean Scott will push Gilchrist for the starting job.

KEY NEWCOMER: Anderson is one of A&M's top recruits ever. A Parade All-America selection, he has a soft touch around the basket, runs the floor well and is accustomed to winning. He and Scott were on four state championship teams in Louisiana.

STRATEGY: A&M will pick up the pace this season. Too often last season, the Aggies would stand and watch King, resulting in a stagnant offense and a slow-to-react defense. A&M shot only 41.2 percent from the floor, while opponents hit 46.3 percent. The struggle will continue, but a .500 record in conference play and a slightly better overall mark is not too much to ask for.

Aggies

Coach: Melvin Watkins (20-35, 2 years; 62-55 overall, 4 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 8-20. Big 12: 4-12/T8th.

Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: College Station, Texas.

Home court: Reed Arena (12,500).

Website: www.AggieAthletics.com

*1999-2000 starter		Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG% FT% 3%
5	F	Nick Anderson	6-6/225	Fr.	Parade	All-American	one of best ever	to sign.
2	F	Keith Bean	6-9/255	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 0.0 0.0
20	F	Brian Brookhart	6-9/230	So.	0.8	0.4	0.1	60.0 0.0 0.0
24	F	Carlton Brown	6-6/215	Sr.	6.9	3.3	0.7	48.1 63.0 41.2
44	C	Nolan Butterfrass	6-10/240	Fr.	Needs time to adjust to college game.			
4	G	Jamaal Gilchrist*	5-11/180	So.	9.4	3.8	3.9	37.1 76.6 24.0
21	F	Aaron Jack*	6-8/235	Sr.	8.2	6.5	0.8	62.5 58.4 0.0
32	G	Bernard King*	6-4/185	So.	16.9	4.8	4.1	37.8 70.2 34.6
3	F	Jesse King	6-6/205	Fr.	Is expected to play; athletic & plays solid D.			
22	G	Andy Leatherman	6-2/205	Jr.	2.9	1.5	1.8	25.8 77.8 18.6
14	F	Tomas Ressa	6-11/230	So.	4.6	2.1	0.8	37.7 55.0 32.6
25	F	Larry Scott*	6-6/215	So.	6.8	1.8	1.1	36.4 67.7 35.9
1	G	Trayvean Scott	6-1/175	Fr.	All-state pick (LA) could contribute right away.			
50	C	Andy Slocum*	6-11/265	So.	4.9	3.1	0.4	39.9 58.6 40.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3
F	Jerald Brown	6-8/218	5.4	3.3	0.8	42.9	67.7	24.1

Schedule

N18 at G. Washington	D23 at Long Beach State	J24 at Oklahoma State	F17 Missouri
N20 North Texas	D27-30 Rainbow Classic	J28 Iowa State	F21 Oklahoma State
N26 Birmingham South.	J4 Centenary	J30 at Texas	F24 Texas Tech
N29 Morris Brown	J6 Kansas State	F3 Oklahoma	F28 at Nebraska
D2 at VCU	J9 at Oklahoma	F6 Baylor	M3 at Baylor
D5 Lamar	J13 at Colorado	F10 at Texas Tech	*at Houston
D9 North Carolina*	J17 Texas	F14 Texas-Pan American	
	J20 at Kansas		

12. Kansas State

NATIONAL RANK
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FRONTCOURT: About the only fun player to watch at Kansas State over the previous two seasons, forward Tony Kitt, is gone, and now the Wildcats have to find a source for front-court production. Kelvin Howell is a good place to start. He led K-State in shooting at

53.1 percent. And there's 6-7 forward Travis Reynolds, who is also one of the team's top defensive players. Both have to step up their scoring. Neither is an impact player.

BACKCOURT: The playmaker will be transfer Larry Reid, a junior college All-American at Northern Oklahoma last season. K-State didn't have a true point guard last season. Perhaps the team's most reliable scorer is shooting guard Galen Morrison, who knocked down 43.5 percent of his treys. Quentin Buchanan had his moments, and the Wildcats are happy to get back a 100 percent Josh Kimm, who struggled with a knee injury last season.

KEY NEWCOMER: New coach Jim Wooldridge's first signee will have the greatest impact. Only a week after he took the job, K-State signed Reid, who picked the Wildcats over Baylor and Long Beach State. Reid averaged 18.5 points and six assists last season and should be a starter from the first day of practice.

STRATEGY: Even with a new coaching staff, the Wildcats shouldn't appear much different. Former coach Tom Asbury preached defense and rarely had the horses to do much in transition. In Wooldridge's first season, the Wildcats figure to be better defensively than a year ago, but finding guys to put it in the basket with regularity could be a problem. K-State will try to employ the kind of in-your-face defense Tim Floyd used so successfully at Iowa State a few seasons ago.

Wildcats

Coach: Jim Wooldridge (first year; 229-147 overall, 13 years).

1999-2000 record: 9-19. Big 12: 2-14/12th.

Last league title: 1977 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Manhattan, Kan.

Home court: Bramlage Coliseum (13,500).

Website: www.k-statesports.com

*1999-2000 starter		Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG% FT% 3%
3	G	Quentin Buchanan	6-7/200	So.	4.5	3.1	1.0	41.4 57.1 30.8
55	G	Kerry Darting	6-0/165	Fr.	Redshirted last season after walking on.			
	G	Kenyatta Dix	6-1/170		4.0	0.8	1.3	40.7 73.9 18.5
44	F/C	Kelvin Howell*	6-9/240	Sr.	8.0	7.3	0.9	53.1 45.9 0.0
00	G	Josh Kimm	6-1/180	Jr.	2.0	1.3	1.9	27.0 57.1 27.5
1	G	Galen Morrison*	6-0/200	Sr.	11.9	2.0	2.7	41.4 85.7 43.5
25	G	Larry Reid	6-0/170	Jr.	Second-team JC All-American last season.			
5	F	Travis Reynolds*	6-7/210	Jr.	5.3	6.1	1.4	43.3 62.2 0.0
11	G	Matt Siebrandt	6-8/240	So.	Ex-UNLV recruit expected to start right away.			
32	G	Richie Terry	6-3/210	So.	Coming off big year (18.6 ppg) in JC ranks.			
41	F	Donnie Wallace	6-9/215	So.	1.2	1.2	0.1	43.8 33.3 36.4
10	G	Ryan Weigel	6-3/200	Jr.	Former JC player will walk on this season.			

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Cortez Groves*	6-5/185	16.1	2.1	2.5	38.0	71.2	37.4
F	Tony Kitt*	6-8/225	12.6	9.1	1.3	50.6	69.9	0.0
G/F	Josh Reid	6-6/200	7.1	2.3	1.8	33.9	77.4	39.3

Schedule

N18 Texas-San Antonio	D23 Iowa	J27 at Kansas	F21 Iowa State
N21 at Wichita State	D30 at Memphis	J30 Nebraska	F24 at Oklahoma State
N28 Tennessee State	J2 Texas-Pan Amer.	F3 at Iowa State	F28 Kansas
D2 Illinois	J6 at Texas A&M	F7 at Missouri	M3 at Colorado
D5 at Mississippi	J10 at Texas	F10 Colorado	
D9 at Old Dominion	J13 Baylor	F14 at Nebraska	
D16 Eastern Washington	J16 Missouri	F18 Texas Tech	

Big East

BY KEN DAVIS

Hartford Courant

Predictions

East Division

1. Connecticut*
2. St. John's*
3. Villanova
4. Miami
5. Boston College
6. Providence
7. Virginia Tech

West Division

1. Seton Hall*
2. Notre Dame*
3. Georgetown*
4. Syracuse
5. Pittsburgh
6. Rutgers
7. West Virginia

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Big East

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kevin Braswell, Georgetown	6-2	190	Jr.
G	Albert Mouring, Connecticut	6-3	180	Sr.
F	Troy Murphy, Notre Dame	6-10	237	Jr.
C	Samuel Dalembert, Seton Hall	6-11	232	So.
F	Anthony Glover, St. John's	6-6	225	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Todd Billet, Rutgers	6-0	180	So.
G	Troy Bell, Boston College	6-1	169	So.
F	Michael Bradley, Villanova	6-10	245	Jr.
C	Ruben Boumtje Boumtje, G'town	6-11	255	Sr.
F	Ricardo Greer, Pittsburgh	6-5	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Troy Murphy, F, Notre Dame

Newcomer of the Year

Eddie Griffin, F, Seton Hall

Honor Roll

- Best shooter: Albert Mouring, Connecticut
- Best rebounder: Troy Murphy, Notre Dame
- Best playmaker: Todd Billet, Rutgers
- Best defender: Samuel Dalembert, Seton Hall
- Best leaper: Ricardo Greer, Pittsburgh
- Best under 6-0: John Linehan, Providence
- Best over 7-0: Karim Shabazz, Providence
- Most versatile: Ricardo Greer, Pittsburgh
- Most flamboyant: Preston Shumpert, Syracuse
- Best NBA prospect: Troy Murphy, Notre Dame

ASCENDING: Pittsburgh. The Panthers hold the undisputed Big East record for bad luck, but hexes and spells can't last forever. Coach Ben Howland is heading into his second season. Guard Jarrett Lockhart is the only starter not returning from last season. More important, forward Isaac Hawkins is back after missing all of last season with a broken leg. The Panthers may not reach the NCAA Tournament this season, but they are building in the right direction.

DESCENDING: Providence. The problems there extend far beyond the basketball court. An ugly off-campus incident in the spring not only cost coach Tim Welsh players, it created a publicity nightmare for the program. There are already questions about the commitment to athletics at the school. The successful baseball program was eliminated to meet Title IX requirements. Crowds at the Providence Civic Center have been shrinking. A once-proud program has suffered significant damage.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Etan Thomas, Syracuse. It didn't take long for Syracuse fans to start longing for the past. Michigan State's victory over Syracuse in

the NCAA Tournament ended an era that belonged to Jason Hart, Ryan Blackwell and Thomas. Orange fans everywhere instantly began wondering how Syracuse could replace those three. The toughest task will be in the middle, where Thomas dominated and wasn't always appreciated. He could score and rebound, but most important he changed games with his shot-blocking skills. It's going to take a committee—Billy Celuck, Ethan Cole and Jeremy McNeil—to even attempt the things Thomas accomplished.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Albert Mouring, Connecticut. Mouring is The Silencer. When the Huskies are on the road and need a basket to quiet a hostile crowd, they should always look for Mouring. One of his perfectly delivered 3-point baskets is the best way to leave a crowd speechless. And Mouring doesn't mouth off about what he's doing. Maybe that's why so many Big East fans don't realize his accomplishments. In league games, he shot 50.6 percent from 3-point range—best in the Big East. His career 3-point average (43.3 percent) is No. 2 all-time at UConn, just behind Ray Allen.

WHAT ABOUT MARCH?

Jarvis has gotten great results in the regular season, but he doesn't have a .500 record in NCAA play.



JASON WISE FOR TSN

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Anthony Perry, Georgetown. Where in the world is he? His senior season is about to begin and he certainly hasn't lived up to his pre-college reputation. He was considered one of the top recruits in the nation and one of the best guards ever to commit to Georgetown. The conference is still waiting to be awed. Perry spent all last season in a shooting slump and watched his scoring average slip from 14 points as a sophomore to 8.7 as a junior. It may take a three-guard lineup for Perry to keep his starting spot this season.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Mike Jarvis, St. John's. The regular-season results have been outstanding. Jarvis has kept the Red Storm in the thick of the conference race, despite numerous distractions and problems. There have been huge victories over UConn and Duke. But Jarvis alienated many St. John's fans with the way he responded to NCAA allegations, and some probably wish he had moved on to the NBA in the offseason. The second-round loss to Gonzaga in the NCAA Tournament was embarrassing. Jarvis still doesn't have a .500 record in NCAA play, and that may eventually become the bottom line.

BEST BETS: Notre Dame's Troy Murphy will lead the conference in scoring and rebounding again, be named Player of the Year and surprise everyone again by staying in school for his senior season. ... Mike

Krzyzewski will speak fondly of the Duke family as Seton Hall and Notre Dame battle for a divisional title under his former assistants Tommy Amaker and Mike Brey. ... Virginia Tech will be fortunate to win once or twice in Big East play. ... Even the coaches will have a hard time remembering which division they are in this season under the new realignment. ... Newcomer of the year will be the closest vote ever taken in the conference.

ODDS AND ENDS: Buy a program at the next game you attend. Big East rosters feature at least 60 newcomers on 14 teams this season. ... Of the 15 players named to All-Big East teams last season, only three—Troy Murphy, Ricardo Greer and Ruben Boumtje Boumtje—return this season. ... Virginia Tech, which joins the Big East from the Atlantic 10, is coming off its first winning season since 1995-96. The Hokies were 16-15. ... Villanova coach Steve Lappas agreed to a contract extension through the 2003-04 season. ... Rutgers extended coach Kevin Bannon's contract three more years through 2005-06. ... Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim enters the season with 575 victories. He ranks fourth among active Division I coaches in winning percentage, behind Jerry Tarkanian, John Kresse and Roy Williams. ... The top six teams from last season all must replace starting point guards.



Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
Troy Murphy	Notre Dame	22.7
Troy Bell	Boston College	18.8
Ricardo Greer	Pittsburgh	18.1
Darius Lane	Seton Hall	15.3
Kevin Braswell	Georgetown	14.8

Name	School	RPG
Troy Murphy	Notre Dame	10.3
Ricardo Greer	Pittsburgh	9.8
Erron Maxey	Providence	8.0
R. Boumtje Boumtje	Georgetown	7.7
Brooks Sales	Villanova	7.3

Name	School	APG
Brandin Knight	Pittsburgh	5.5
Kevin Braswell	Georgetown	5.3
Tim Lyles	West Virginia	4.5
Todd Billet	Rutgers	4.3
Reggie Jessie	St. John's	3.6

Name	School	FG%
Troy Murphy	Notre Dame	49.2
Erron Maxey	Providence	47.7
Ricardo Greer	Pittsburgh	46.4
Darius Lane	Seton Hall	40.5
Troy Bell	Boston College	38.6

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Syracuse	13	3	26	6	17	1	9	5
Miami	13	3	23	11	11	5	12	6
St. John's	12	4	25	8	13	1	12	7
Connecticut	10	6	25	10	13	3	12	7
Seton Hall	10	6	22	10	13	3	9	7
Villanova	8	8	20	13	14	3	6	10
Notre Dame	8	8	22	15	16	4	6	11
West Virginia	6	10	14	14	9	6	5	8
Georgetown	6	10	19	15	13	14	6	11
Rutgers	6	10	15	16	8	5	7	11
Pittsburgh	5	11	13	15	10	7	3	8
Providence	4	12	11	19	7	9	4	10
Boston College	3	13	11	19	7	8	4	11

Ranking the Recruiting

1. UConn: Late additions Johnnie Selvie and Robert Swain move Huskies up.
2. Seton Hall: Eddie Griffin should be Big East's best newcomer.
3. St. John's: Red Storm fell from No. 1 in nation when Darius Miles went to the NBA.
4. Miami: Signing Darius Rice shows program has arrived.
5. Pittsburgh: "Recruit to Shoot" plan paying off with JC signee Zelimir Stevanovic.
6. Virginia Tech: Carlton Carter should give help up front as one of seven newcomers.
7. Rutgers: Mike Sherrod will add depth to point guard.
8. Providence: Shieku Kabba may provide new source of offense.
9. Georgetown: Hoyas stockpiling big men like Omari Faulkner and Mike Sweetney.
10. Villanova: Biggest addition is Kentucky transfer Michael Bradley.
11. Syracuse: Ethan Cole has best chance of contributing now.
12. West Virginia: Michael Ayodele is most intriguing.
13. Boston College: Andrew Bryant must ease pressure on Troy Bell.
14. Notre Dame: Recruiting class doesn't impress, but don't forget transfer Ryan Humphrey.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Syracuse	32	46.9	70.5	35.4	37.5	17.6	8.9	5.2	14.0	75.0
Connecticut	35	46.2	72.8	38.6	39.2	15.1	6.6	5.1	14.1	74.6
St. John's	33	46.4	67.7	31.4	34.3	16.4	10.7	2.7	12.1	73.7
Seton Hall	32	43.3	67.8	36.5	37.8	14.3	7.0	6.2	14.9	71.7
Notre Dame	37	46.6	74.2	38.2	35.7	17.4	7.8	3.0	17.7	71.2
West Virginia	28	45.0	65.3	33.0	37.4	15.5	7.3	4.4	16.9	70.5
Rutgers	31	45.0	65.3	37.3	35.8	15.6	7.2	3.5	15.3	70.2
Villanova	33	42.5	70.5	34.1	37.9	15.6	7.4	4.9	16.5	69.9
Georgetown	34	39.4	65.5	29.4	44.1	13.2	9.4	6.7	18.1	69.7
Miami	34	43.1	74.8	30.0	37.7	14.6	8.4	3.7	14.8	69.0
Boston College	30	41.0	71.1	30.2	35.6	11.6	9.3	3.4	16.4	68.3
Pittsburgh	28	42.9	62.3	32.0	37.3	16.4	7.7	2.1	16.3	66.6
Providence	30	40.0	62.6	30.4	38.0	12.8	8.2	4.7	17.7	64.2

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Miami	34	39.4	68.0	29.8	35.4	12.0	6.8	3.2	18.1	62.6
Syracuse	32	40.6	66.9	32.6	33.7	15.8	6.9	3.0	15.8	63.5
Connecticut	35	39.6	70.9	32.2	34.0	13.8	7.0	3.2	13.9	65.3
Seton Hall	32	39.8	66.5	32.2	39.3	14.1	6.8	3.9	14.5	66.2
Providence	30	40.2	66.9	31.9	38.3	12.9	8.9	3.7	18.4	66.3
St. John's	33	44.2	68.3	35.4	34.5	15.4	6.2	4.2	17.9	66.4
Pittsburgh	28	42.9	70.8	35.7	34.2	14.8	6.5	5.3	15.0	67.0
Rutgers	31	42.6	67.9	32.2	35.8	12.7	7.9	3.9	14.8	67.8
Notre Dame	37	41.0	67.1	33.9	33.3	15.9	8.5	3.5	14.1	68.1
Georgetown	34	38.5	69.0	31.8	39.6	13.9	9.6	3.9	17.4	68.2
Villanova	33	42.3	65.2	32.8	37.4	14.7	8.7	3.7	15.4	69.1
Boston College	30	43.7	71.2	35.6	36.9	11.9	9.1	4.5	18.5	69.2
West Virginia	28	42.6	70.0	35.6	35.7	15.7	8.4	4.4	16.9	71.9

1. Connecticut

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N17 Quinnipiac
N20-22 Maui Invitational
N28 Brown
N30 Houston
D2 New Hampshire
D9 Arizona
D12 at Massachusetts
D22 Fairfield
D26 Rhode Island
D28 Stony Brook
J3 at Boston College
J6 St. John's
J10 Pittsburgh
J13 at Providence
J15 at Texas
J20 at Miami
J24 Villanova
J30 at St. John's
F3 Virginia Tech
F6 Providence
F10 at Villanova
F13 Boston College
F17 at Virginia Tech
F19 at Syracuse
F24 Miami
F26 Notre Dame
M3 at Seton Hall

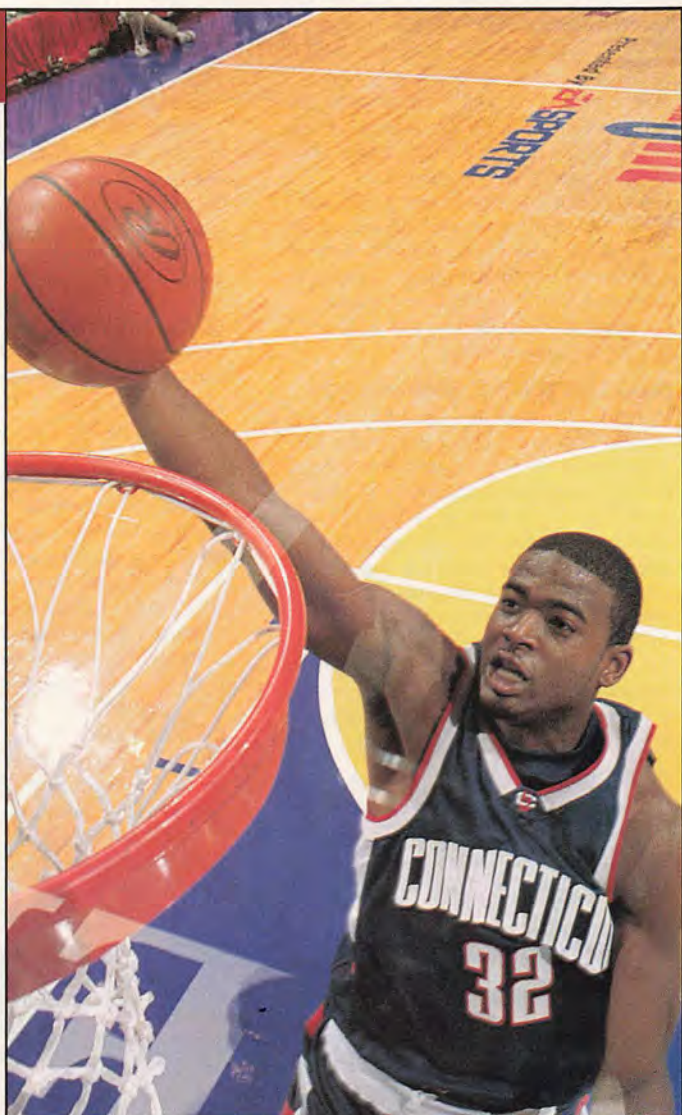
FRONTCOURT: Last season, the frontcourt situation for UConn appeared uncomplicated at first. C Jake Voskuhl and PF Kevin Freeman were returning starters from the 1999 national championship team. Edmund Saunders had played a key role in the NCAA Tournament. Ajou Deng was heralded as one of the nation's most promising newcomers. Souleymane Wane was there to backup Voskuhl and grow as a player. It sounded nice and simple, until the team took the floor. That's when individual goals collided with team chemistry and roles became cloudy. Freeman's desire to prove himself as a small forward took away from his production at the power spot. Then the coaching staff struggled to define Deng's role. The Huskies were better when Saunders played well, but his game is emotional and at times those emotions got out of hand and team chemistry took a hit. This season's new look starts without four-year fixtures Voskuhl and Freeman. Wane moves to center. Seven-foot sophomore Justin Brown is the only other true center. Deng, who finished the season with confidence, and Saunders will probably battle for playing time at small forward. But newcomer Caron Butler will also push for time. JC transfer Johnnie Selvie is expected to make an impact on the boards. Freshman PF Scott Hazelton will also battle for minutes.

BACKCOURT: No more fat jokes. No more McDonald's cartons or Dunkin' Donuts

boxes in the student section on the road. Khalid El-Amin is gone, and the Huskies are searching for a new point guard. Even though El-Amin's judgment came into question often the past two years, he was a legitimate leader who knew how to win. He takes all of that with him to the NBA. Coach Jim Calhoun and his staff recruited Taliek Brown from New York City knowing full well that the freshman might be thrown into the fire this season. Brown expects to assume the starting role, but sophomores Marcus Cox and Tony Robertson will be in the mix. Perhaps the one sure thing in the starting lineup will be the presence of Albert Mouring at shooting guard. Mouring came into his own last season, averaging 13.9 points and leading the league in 3-point shooting percentage (47.8). The best thing about Mouring is that he does his job quietly. No arguments. No cockiness. Just confidence and results. Robertson and Swain will step in when Mouring needs a rest.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Take your pick. This recruiting class is solid, perhaps the best in UConn history. But the Huskies need instant production from Brown at point guard and from junior college standout Selvie at power forward. Butler has a history of discipline problems, the last thing the Huskies need in the frontcourt after last year. If he matures and contributes early, they might not miss a beat.

STRATEGY: The Huskies will make an interesting transition this season. There is no Donyell Marshall, Ray Allen, Richard Hamilton or El-Amin to tout as an All-American candidate. Seven players return, along with a recruiting class begging to be played. Look for a return to athleticism. UConn will run more on offense and press more on defense again. The Huskies have had that reputation, but the execution has been missing in recent years. It may take awhile to find the right chemistry, but the Huskies could be very good once they do.



BACKCOURT OPTION: Robertson will compete for time at both shooting and point guard, but wherever he plays he needs to improve his shooting, especially from the line.

DATA

Huskies

Coach: Jim Calhoun (329-130, 14 years; 579-267, 28 years; 26-13 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1999).

1999-2000 record: 25-10. Big East: 10-6/4th. Lost to Tennessee in NCAA South second round.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Storrs, Conn.

Website: www.UConnHuskies.com

Home court: Hartford Civic Center (16,294); Gampel Pavilion (10,027).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	C	Justin Brown	7-0/250	So.	1.2	0.7	0.0	55.6	60.0	—
12	G	Taliek Brown	6-1/180	Fr.	UConn wants to run. This NYC product can.					
3	F	Caron Butler	6-7/225	Fr.	Adds bulk & rebounding inside next to Deng.					
50	G	Marcus Cox	6-4/200	So.	1.2	0.9	1.1	28.9	66.7	7.7
4	F	Ajou Deng	6-10/225	Jr.	4.5	3.5	0.7	48.0	47.6	26.1
21	F	Scott Hazelton	6-8/210	Fr.	Front-line depth means he has room to grow.					
23	G	Albert Mouring*	6-3/190	Sr.	13.9	3.5	2.3	42.9	84.3	47.8
32	G	Tony Robertson	6-2/205	So.	6.8	2.1	1.4	44.5	37.0	37.0
51	F	Edmund Saunders*	6-8/220	Sr.	7.6	4.9	1.3	52.9	64.9	0.0
44	F	Johnnie Selvie	6-7/230	Jr.	JC transfer from Flint, Mich., hoops factory.					
2	G	Robert Swain	6-4/205	Fr.	Strong slasher/scorer, possible sleeper.					
34	C/F	Wane Souleymane	6-11/240	Sr.	4.3	4.8	0.3	47.2	73.7	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Khalid El-Amin*	5-10/203	16.0	3.1	5.2	41.1	89.2	35.6
F	Kevin Freeman*	6-7/235	11.0	5.7	1.6	48.3	67.6	28.6
C	Jake Voskuhl*	6-11/245	8.5	6.4	1.2	57.1	68.3	—

2. St. John's

NATIONAL RANK

29

FRONT COURT: Before Darius Miles opted for the NBA draft, where he was the third overall pick, the Red Storm had the nation's top recruiting class. But it's still a good class. Junior Anthony Glover will need to handle the power forward chores and be the build-

ing block of this team. This year, coach Mike Jarvis has the size to play with a more traditional center. Freshmen Abe Keita and Mohammed Diakite are two options. Junior Donald Emanuel also is back and should be improved after seeing more playing time.

BACK COURT: Erick Barkley and Bootsy Thornton are gone. So are swingman Lavar Postell and reserve Chudney Gray. But fresh talent is here. Point guard Omar Cook should have little difficulty adjusting to the college game. Senior Reggie Jessie has excelled in the swingman role. When Jessie rests, look for transfer Alpha Bangura or freshman Willie Shaw. The departure of Barkley is costly. But the returnees who played without him—and won—during his NCAA suspensions last spring won't lack confidence.

KEY NEWCOMER: It will be interesting to see if Cook can maintain his high level of play. He was a McDonald's All-American who averaged 19 points, seven assists and 4.3 steals as a prep senior. He became the all-time assists leader at Christ the King in Queens, N.Y., a lofty accomplishment considering the school's alumni list includes Barkley, Khalid Reeves and Derrick Phelps.

STRATEGY: Fans again are going to expect athletic play, an explosive transition game and excellent shooting from the wings. They are going to expect another long run in the Big East tournament and a longer NCAA tourney run than last season's second-round loss to Gonzaga. Those are reasonable goals.

Red Storm

Coach: Mike Jarvis (53-17, 2 years; 306-158 overall, 15 years; 7-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 25-8. Big East: 12-4/3rd. Lost to Gonzaga in NCAA West second round.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Jamaica, N.Y. **Website:** www.redstormsports.com
Home court: Alumni Hall (6,008); Madison Square Garden (19,763).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Alpha Bangura	6-6/215	So.	Transfer had big frosh season at Monmouth.					
	G	Omar Cook	6-1/190	Fr.	Has Barkley's Christ the King roots and game.					
	F	Kyle Cuffe	6-8/210	Fr.	Played big games at respected HS program.					
	C	Mohammed Diakite	6-10/210	Fr.	Most potential. Expected to start eventually.					
33	C	Donald Emanuel	6-8/230	Jr.	2.5	2.2	0.4	44.3	77.8	0.0
22	F	Anthony Glover*	6-6/225	Jr.	10.2	5.2	0.8	54.4	61.7	—
41	G/F	Reggie Jessie*	6-7/213	Sr.	8.7	5.5	3.6	51.0	60.8	21.4
	C	Curtis Johnson	7-3/320	Fr.	Even a 7-3 project looks good on a roster.					
	C	Abe Keita	6-11/235	Fr.	Sat in '99-00. Has best shot to start at center.					
	F	Willie Shaw	6-6/185	Fr.	Rebounds well for his height. Range is 20 ft.					
32	F	Jack Wolfinger	6-11/205	So.	Likes to shoot 3s. Won't get many chances.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Erick Barkley*	6-1/185	16.0	3.0	4.5	39.8	66.4	31.3
G	Chudney Gray	6-3/185	8.0	2.9	2.8	48.3	72.5	22.5
F	Lavar Postell*	6-6/212	14.3	6.9	1.8	42.8	80.9	29.4
G	Marvis Thornton*	6-4/195	15.3	5.5	2.9	48.6	57.3	35.5

Schedule

N9-10 Coaches vs. Cancer	D21 Manhattan	J27 at Virginia Tech	F25 at Villanova
N18 Stony Brook	D30 San Francisco	J30 Connecticut	F28 at Boston College
N25 Niagara	J3 Virginia Tech	F3 at Providence	M4 Syracuse
D2-3 BB&T Classic	J6 at Connecticut	F5 at Notre Dame	
D9 at Fordham	J10 Boston College	F11 at Miami	
D13 at Ohio State	J14 at Rutgers	F14 Providence	
D16 Hofstra	J20 Villanova	F18 Duke	
	J22 Miami	F21 Georgetown	

3. Villanova

NATIONAL RANK

44

FRONT COURT: The long wait is over for Michael Bradley and Villanova fans. Bradley had last season off to admire his national championship ring from Kentucky. Now the highly touted transfer brings his many skills to a new Wildcats family. It has been a

while since Villanova had this type of toughness, along with tremendous scoring skills inside. Bradley averaged 9.8 points and 4.9 rebounds for Kentucky two seasons ago. He brings a wealth of experience to a line that includes Brooks Sales and Ricky Wright. Sales brings solid defense and improved rebounding.

BACK COURT: An area of great concern at the start of last season now appears settled. PG Jermaine Medley, the only scholarship senior, took over down the stretch last season, and SG Gary Buchanan was sensational as a freshman. Medley provided great floor leadership and then averaged 11.4 points in the final 14 games. If Medley falters, Derrick Snowden, a sensational freshman, is ready to step in. Buchanan came into his own with 28 points against Georgia. And he was extremely valuable at the free-throw line, where he hit 45 consecutive shots.

KEY NEWCOMER: Bradley, who holds the Kentucky record for field-goal accuracy (65.7 percent in '98-99), should be a force around the basket. He should start off the season as good a player as Malik Allen was and continue to improve.

STRATEGY: Even with the departures of Allen, T.J. Caouette and Brian Lynch, Villanova should be much better. Bradley's passing and scoring skills are well suited to the motion offense. If the Wildcats improve defensively, they should be a tough team to play against.

Wildcats

Coach: Steve Lappas (156-97, 8 years; 212-159 overall, 12 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 20-12. Big East 8-8/T6th. Lost to Kent in NIT second round.
Last league title: 1997 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Philadelphia. **Website:** www.villanova.com
Home court: The Pavilion (6,500); First Union Center (21,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
1	F	Andreas Bloch	6-7/205	Fr.	Looking for comfort zone in motion offense.					
33	F	Michael Bradley	6-10/245	Jr.	'Nova needs transfer to bring Ky. swagger.					
	G	Reggie Bryant	6-2/185	Fr.	Can play two guard spots and score from both.					
22	G	Gary Buchanan*	6-3/200	So.	12.5	2.8	2.6	43.2	93.2	39.8
51	F	Chas Carey	6-5/200	Sr.	0.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	—	—
40	F	Johnny Holley	6-6/180	Jr.	0.8	0.7	0.0	20.0	50.0	0.0
4	F	Aaron Matthews	6-6/230	So.	4.6	2.6	1.0	51.5	52.9	14.3
10	G	Jermaine Medley*	6-0/165	Sr.	7.6	2.2	3.2	37.2	68.1	38.1
32	F	Brooks Sales*	6-10/220	Jr.	8.6	7.3	1.0	47.8	64.8	33.3
3	G	Derrick Snowden	6-0/175	Fr.	Natural PG is quick and plays good defense.					
12	F	Andrew Sullivan	6-7/215	So.	2.3	2.1	0.5	36.7	51.3	25.0
55	C	Jair Vedhuis	6-10/230	Fr.	Best skills? Blocking shots and rebounding.					
5	F	Ricky Wright	6-7/215	So.	5.0	3.8	0.4	43.7	71.6	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Malik Allen*	6-10/240	14.2	7.4	1.0	51.1	69.2	—
G/F	Brian Lynch*	6-6/185	10.7	3.9	3.5	34.7	73.3	30.5

Schedule

N14 Fairfield*	Dickinson	J17 Virginia Tech	F17 Miami
N26 Towson State	D28 at Georgia	J20 at St. John's	F20 at West Virginia
D2 Columbia	D30 St. Francis (Pa.)	J24 at Connecticut	F25 St. John's
D5 or 6 Temple	TBA Penn	J27 Boston College	F28 Seton Hall
D9 at St. Joseph's	J2 Rutgers	J31 at Providence	M3 at Miami
D14 at La Salle	J6 at Virginia Tech	F4 at Boston College	*Preseason NIT
D22 Fairleigh	J9 Providence	F10 Connecticut	
	J13 at UCLA	F12 at Georgetown	

4. Miami

NATIONAL RANK
68

FRONTCOURT: Any reminder of three consecutive NCAA bids will be found near the basket with senior Elton Tyler and junior John Salmons. Tyler blossomed into a consistent threat last season, posting 14 double-doubles. Unfortunately, he will miss at least

six games following his suspension for the fall semester for academic reasons. Salmons emerged as the team's best 3-point shooter but contributes most on defense as Miami's defensive player of the year for two consecutive seasons. Dwayne Wimbley will play center, where Mario Bland's absence will be felt most acutely. Wimbley has experience but hasn't been overly productive.

BACKCOURT: Point guard Vernon Jennings will be almost as hard to replace as prolific scorer Johnny Hemsley. Michael Simmons, who missed last season with a foot injury, will get the first shot to start at the point. Freshman Marcus Barnes will wait his turn. Swingman Leroy Hurd, the top scorer off the bench last season, is back, as is James Jones.

KEY NEWCOMER: Darius Rice, the nephew of NFL great Jerry Rice, leads the greatest recruiting class in school history. The McDonald's and Parade All-America averaged 25.8 points, eight rebounds, three assists, 2.1 blocks and two steals in high school.

STRATEGY: Miami will have a different look without Leonard Hamilton, who left the Hurricanes in wonderful shape when he departed for the NBA. It's hard to believe Perry Clark's teams will have the same defensive intensity, which has become a Miami trademark. But the Hurricanes, with four freshmen and one JC transfer, are deep. If Miami's scoring improves (and it can't get much worse), it will be OK if the defense slips a bit.

Hurricanes

Coach: Perry Clark (first year; 185-144 overall, 11 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-11. Big East: 13-3/T 1st. Lost to Tulsa in NCAA South semifinal.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Coral Gables, Fla.

Website: www.hurricanesports.com

Home court: Miami Arena (15,508).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Marcus Barnes	6-2/200	Fr.	Miami native is point guard of future.					
14	F	Rodrigue Djahue	6-7/255	Fr.	Said to be physically stronger than Bland.					
3	G	Joe Gordon	6-2/180	Jr.	Led JC Division I in '99-00 with 27.5 ppg.					
0	G/F	Leroy Hurd	6-7/205	So.	4.3	2.1	0.4	45.6	58.1	33.3
33	F	James Jones	6-8/211	So.	3.9	1.9	0.3	42.6	83.3	31.3
44	F/C	Reo Logan	6-10/205	Fr.	Closer to 7-0. Hits from 18 and handles ball.					
21	F	Darius Rice	6-10/205	Fr.	Probably biggest recruit in school history.					
5	F	John Salmons*	6-7/200	Jr.	9.4	5.4	1.9	45.4	79.3	34.1
1	G	Michael Simmons	6-0/185	So.	2.3	2.3	1.3	60.0	—	50.0
25	F	Elton Tyler*	6-9/215	Sr.	10.1	5.5	1.0	51.2	77.7	25.0
32	F	Dwayne Wimbley	6-9/245	Sr.	2.9	3.9	0.4	37.5	52.8	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Mario Bland*	6-6/265	12.6	7.0	1.2	47.3	73.0	16.7
G/F	Johnny Hemsley*	6-5/195	18.1	3.6	1.7	39.8	84.9	32.0
G	Vernon Jennings*	6-4/203	8.1	4.1	6.8	40.4	73.2	26.7

Schedule

N18 at Florida Atlantic	D18 Eastern Illinois	J16 at Providence	F17 at Villanova
N21 Columbia	D21 Memphis	J20 Connecticut	F24 at Connecticut
N25 Northeastern	D27 Lehigh	J22 at St. John's	F28 West Virginia
N28 at Charlotte	D29 Tennessee-Martin	J28 Providence	M3 Villanova
D4 at North Carolina	J3 at Pittsburgh	F1 Seton Hall	*Orange Bowl Classic
D9 Central Florida	J7 Boston College	F6 Virginia Tech	
D16 Nebraska*	J10 at Virginia Tech	F10 St. John's	
	J13 at Boston College	F13 at Syracuse	

5. Boston College

NATIONAL RANK
88

FRONTCOURT: The roster gives the impression the Eagles are big. There are six players who stand 6-7 or taller, including 6-11 sophomore Andrew Dudley. But most are inexperienced or have been unproductive. Uka Agbai offers the most promise. He

was a pleasant surprise last season. At 6-8 and 240, Agbai earned a starting spot in the low post and provided some highlights. It's hard to tell if there is reason to hope. Brian Ross hopes to return from a season filled with back problems.

BACKCOURT: Troy Bell gave everything he had as a freshman until a knee injury sidelined him the final three games. The Big East Rookie of the Year averaged 18.8 points and led the league in free-throw shooting (89.4 percent). The team must free him of ballhandling duties more often. Xavier Singletary and Kenny Walls should see extensive minutes again. Dwayne Pina, who will forgo his senior season because of a heart problem, will be missed.

KEY NEWCOMERS: The most pressure early may be on freshmen PF Andrew Bryant and, to a certain extent, PG Ryan Sidney. Bryant's athleticism could boost production on the front line. If Sidney can help handle and distribute the ball, it would free Bell to concentrate on his shooting. The third recruit, Ludmil Hadjisotirov, has shooting and scoring credentials as well.

STRATEGY: Focus on winning more conference games. Sounds simple, but the Eagles need simple goals at this stage of their program. B.C. must cut down on turnovers. The Eagles committed 144 more turnovers than assists last season. If they take care of the ball and see improvement from their interior players, they could find their way to postseason play—probably the NIT.

Eagles

Coach: Al Skinner (32-56, 3 years; 170-182 overall, 12 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 11-19. Big East: 3-13/13th.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Website: www.bceagles.com

Home court: Silvio O. Conte Forum (8,606).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
0	F	Uka Agbai*	6-8/240	So.	6.6	5.0	1.2	45.3	69.2	0.0
4	F	J. Beerbohm	6-7/229	Sr.	7.2	4.0	0.8	46.9	67.6	27.3
2	G	Troy Bell*	6-1/169	So.	18.8	3.1	2.1	38.6	89.4	39.9
34	F	Andrew Bryant	6-7/235	Fr.	Athletic PF expected to boost weak front line.					
32	F/C	Andrew Dudley	6-11/254	So.	0.7	0.9	0.1	62.5	0.0	—
10	G	Nicolas Dunn	6-3/201	Sr.	0.6	0.2	0.2	25.0	—	100.0
3	G	Ludmil Hadjisotirov	6-2/185	Fr.	Shooter who will have opportunity to play.					
13	G	Kenny Harley	6-5/196	Sr.	5.5	3.0	1.8	40.7	60.5	21.3
45	F	Brian Ross*	6-8/230	Jr.	3.4	3.5	0.4	37.8	86.7	18.2
15	G	Ryan Sidney	6-2/185	Fr.	Savvy frosh helps Bell if he takes over at PG.					
23	G	Xavier Singletary*	6-6/212	Sr.	12.0	3.8	1.5	36.1	64.7	32.1
21	G/F	Kenny Walls	6-5/192	Jr.	8.8	3.6	1.5	41.9	70.5	23.5
22	F/C	Erik Witt	6-10/220	So.	Could miss year with back injury.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Michael Cotton*	6-4/232	6.3	4.3	1.3	44.2	55.7	13.6
G	Dwayne Pina	5-10/182	1.8	1.3	1.7	38.9	34.8	27.8

Schedule

N19 St. Peter's	D23 Quinnipiac	J27 at Villanova	F24 at Providence
N25 Brown	D30 Vanderbilt	J31 Virginia Tech	F28 St. John's
N28 Marist	J3 Connecticut	F4 Villanova	TBD Morris Brown
D2 Wofford	J7 at Miami	F7 Syracuse	M3 at West Virginia
D4 Holy Cross	J10 at St. John's	F10 at Virginia Tech	
D9 Youngstown State	J13 Miami	F13 at Connecticut	
D17 at Massachusetts	J16 at Duke	F17 Providence	
	J20 Rutgers	F21 at Notre Dame	

6. Providence

NATIONAL RANK

125

FRONTCOURT: Center Karim Shabazz came to his senses just before the deadline passed. Instead of leaving his name in the NBA draft, Shabazz decided to return for his senior season. If NBA scouts had told Shabazz he would have been a lottery pick,

the Friars would be scrambling for a new center. Shabazz averaged 10.4 points and 8.2 rebounds in 21 games after gaining his eligibility last season. Forward Erron Maxey, the most consistent Friar, will also start. Romuald Augustin gained good experience last season and should be improved.

BACKCOURT: The Friars missed point guard John Linehan so much last season it became painful to watch them without him. Linehan was supposed to be the steadying influence on a green lineup, but a series of injuries destroyed any hope of chemistry. Linehan's return for his senior season should add stability to a team that is still incredibly young. The other backcourt spot is up for grabs, and the Friars need to find some scoring punch.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Friars averaged only 64.2 points last season—last in the Big East. Freshman guard Shieku Kabba could change that by bringing speed and athleticism to the backcourt. With six guards on the roster, Kabba should be pushed to excel. That can only help.

STRATEGY: Coach Tim Welsh faces a second season of reshuffling and chemistry experiments. An off-campus incident involving eight players resulted in the dismissal of three. If Shabazz had gone to the NBA, things would have looked extremely bleak. But Welsh has kept his optimism, and if a little rubs off on his players, don't be surprised if the Friars do improve.

Friars

Coach: Tim Welsh (27-33, 2 years; 97-55 overall, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 11-19. Big East: 4-12/12th.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Providence, R.I.

Website: www.friars.com

Home court: Providence Civic Center (12,993).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Christopher Anrin	6-7/210	Fr.	Played past season in Sweden's A League.					
25	F	Romuald Augustin*	6-7/190	So.	6.6	3.3	1.0	36.3	62.5	28.9
	F/C	Marcus Douthitt	6-10/215	Fr.	Committed during early signing period.					
	G	Shieku Kabba	6-2/185	Fr.	Speed and athleticism will energize backcourt.					
	F	Maris Laksa	6-9/212	Fr.	Member of Latvian Junior National team.					
12	G	John Linehan	5-9/165	Sr.	5.2	3.0	3.5	34.4	100.0	31.6
24	F	Erron Maxey*	6-6/195	Sr.	14.8	8.0	1.1	47.7	57.0	25.9
11	G	Abdul Mills*	6-3/190	So.	7.7	2.5	2.2	34.5	67.2	30.0
10	G	Chris Rogers	6-4/180	Sr.	3.0	2.1	2.1	42.9	75.0	34.1
3	C	Karim Shabazz*	7-2/230	Sr.	10.4	8.2	1.5	43.5	55.4	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jamaal Cahmah	6-4/195	6.0	3.9	1.6	39.1	64.7	0.0
G	Mark Jarrell-Wright	6-5/180	2.6	1.2	1.2	26.5	72.2	25.0
G	Marcus Jefferson	6-5/185	3.5	2.6	0.7	34.8	83.3	13.3
C	David Murray	6-9/225	6.3	3.5	0.9	44.8	65.2	0.0
G	Donta Wade*	6-2/195	8.2	2.4	1.1	34.9	70.6	35.5

Schedule

N18 Holy Cross	D2 Rhode Island	J9 at Villanova	F6 at Connecticut
N21 Maine	D7 at Massachusetts	J13 Connecticut	F10 Georgetown
N24-26 Mountain Energy*	D28 Boston U.	J16 Miami	F14 at St. John's
N29 Florida	D30 South Carolina	J20 at Virginia Tech	F17 at Boston College
International	TBD Binghamton	J23 Pittsburgh	F20 Virginia Tech
N30 Brown	TBD Nonconference game	J28 at Miami	F24 Boston College
	J3 at Seton Hall	J31 Villanova	M3 at Rutgers
		F3 St. John's	*Kansas City

7. Virginia Tech

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: PF Dennis Mims will be the key player for the Hokies as they make their transition from Atlantic 10 to the Big East. Mims led the team in scoring and rebounding last season, and he led the Atlantic 10 in field-goal percentage (52.6). He might start

the season at center until Carlton Carter, a 6-11 transfer from Colorado, becomes eligible in late December. The Hokies may be scrambling until then. Rolan Roberts, the projected starting power forward, is transferring. Freshmen Danny Gathings and Bryant Matthews will compete for the starting small forward job.

BACKCOURT: Last year's shooting guard, Brendan Dunlop, is one of four seniors and three starters not returning. But Brian Chase, an A-10 All-Rookie selection who averaged 12.9 points and made 63 3-pointers, is back at point guard. The favorite to start at shooting guard is JC transfer Joe Hamilton, but freshmen Carlos Dixon and Matthews could see time as well.

KEY NEWCOMER: Carter is the only player taller than 6-9 on Tech's roster and gives the Hokies hope for a legitimate inside game. Carter was a member of the Big 12 all-freshman team two years ago (5.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg). His second-half development will be key, especially when it comes to clearing room for Mims inside.

STRATEGY: New conference. Seven new players. Second-year coach Ricky Stokes will need patience as Tech makes its Big East debut. A little more offense wouldn't hurt either. Tech plays strong defense but has had trouble scoring. The Hokies are 24-1 the past three seasons when scoring 70 or more points, but they averaged only 64.4 last season. Until the Hokies develop some chemistry, this will be a difficult period in Tech history.

Hokies

Coach: Ricky Stokes (16-15, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 16-15. Atlantic 10 West: 8-8/4th.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Blacksburg, Va.

Website: www.hokiesports.com

Home court: Cassell Coliseum (10,052).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
15	C/F	Carlton Carter	6-11/205	So.	Colorado transfer eligible in December.					
5	G	Brian Chase*	5-10/170	So.	12.9	3.6	1.2	40.9	75.6	38.4
32	G/F	Carlos Dixon	6-7/185	Fr.	Good 3-point shooter will see time off bench.					
45	F/C	Mibindo Dongo	6-9/245	Jr.	From Zaire, good rebounder on top JC team.					
24	G	Chris Exilus	6-2/180	Fr.	State HS player of year. Likely starter at PG.					
55	G/F	Danny Gathings	6-5/205	Fr.	Has legit shot to start at wing.					
00	G	Joe Hamilton	6-6/185	Jr.	SG was MVP of 2000 JC all-star game.					
22	G/F	Bryant Matthews	6-7/200	Fr.	Has to beat out Gathings at 3-spot.					
42	F	Dennis Mims*	6-9/225	Jr.	14.2	7.6	1.6	52.6	68.7	0.0
23	G	Drew Smith	6-3/190	So.	1.4	1.1	0.6	33.3	69.2	15.4
21	F/C	Jon Smith	6-8/220	So.	1.9	1.1	0.0	44.1	76.5	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Andre Ray*	6-4/220	4.8	4.5	2.4	41.3	59.3	28.9
G	Brendan Dunlop*	6-2/185	9.5	2.4	3.3	43.1	71.4	27.4
C/F	Russ Wheeler	6-8/230	4.4	4.2	0.8	44.2	67.6	0.0
F	Rolan Roberts*	6-6/240	13.1	6.1	Transferred.			

Schedule

N18 VMI	State	J17 at Villanova	F20 at Providence
N20 William & Mary	D20 at Mount St.	J20 Providence	F24 Notre Dame
N24 Virginia	Mary's	J27 St. John's	M3 at Pittsburgh
N28 Liberty	D23 at Chattanooga	J31 at Boston College	
D1-2 Carrier Classic	D30 High Point	F3 at Connecticut	
D6 Elon	J3 at St. John's	F6 at Miami	
D18 East Tennessee	J6 Villanova	F10 Boston College	
	J10 Miami	F14 West Virginia	
	J13 at Georgetown	F17 Connecticut	

West Division

1. Seton Hall

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N17 Rider
 N21 at Clemson
 N27 St. Peter's
 D2 at La Salle
 D4 Norfolk State
 D9 at Illinois
 D13 Pennsylvania
 D19 Michigan State*
 D22 Wagner
 D27 Hartford
 D30 Central Connecticut
 J3 Providence
 J6 at Georgetown
 J8 Notre Dame
 J13 at Pittsburgh
 J15 Georgetown
 J21 Syracuse
 J27 at West Virginia
 F1 at Miami
 F4 Rutgers
 F10 at Syracuse
 F15 Pittsburgh
 F18 at Notre Dame
 F21 at Rutgers
 F25 West Virginia
 F28 at Villanova
 M3 Connecticut
 *East Rutherford, N.J.

FRONTCOURT: What's all the fuss about at Seton Hall? One look at the frontcourt possibilities and it becomes clear. Starters Samuel Dalembert and Greg Morton are back, and they are only sophomores. Dalembert is 6-11 and changed the Pirates dramatically last season with his shot-blocking ability. He had offseason surgery for a broken foot. That injury hindered him all last season, yet he still averaged 3.6 blocks. Morton, a 6-7 forward, was a steady player last season and brings athleticism and a year of experience to the frontcourt. But the real buzz comes with the arrival of freshman Eddie Griffin. Griffin brings a new level of excitement to the Meadowlands, one that has been missing for almost a decade. Griffin, a 6-9 power forward from Philadelphia, was widely considered the top prep player in the country and was named National Player of the Year by *Parade* magazine. Griffin can score inside or jump out on the perimeter and hit the 3-pointer. Opponents will find it difficult to get off a clean shot with Dalembert and Griffin playing side by side. Prepare for new and extreme usage of the "shots altered" statistic. Also, coach Tommy Amaker finally has depth at these key spots with seniors Reggie Garrett and Kevin Wilkins and sophomore Charles Manga to back up Dalembert and sophomore Al Harris.

BACKCOURT: There's so much excitement around Seton Hall that many fans forget

the Pirates are losing point guard Shaheen Holloway and 3-point shooter Rimas Kaukenas. Both were integral parts of the Seton Hall offense who provided tremendous leadership that won't be quickly replaced. But they have great candidates for those leadership roles in Darius Lane and Ty Shine. Lane, a 6-4 junior, exploded last season and became the team's leading scorer. His long-range shooting made the Pirates exciting and dangerous. Shine, now out of Holloway's shadow, took advantage of his rare opportunities when Holloway was injured. When Holloway went down against Temple in the NCAAs, Shine scored a career-high 26 points. Freshmen Andre Barrett and Marcus Toney-El and sophomore Desmond Herod bring significant depth to the backcourt.

KEY NEWCOMER: Griffin is the player with the target on his chest and back. The Pirates are counting on him. Opponents will be gunning for him. But he should be able to handle the pressure. He averaged 26 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks as a high school senior. If Griffin produces only a fraction of what people are expecting, he will lift the Pirates into contention for the division and conference titles. Amaker believes Griffin's shot-blocking ability, packaged together with Dalembert's proven talent in that area, will change games. Griffin is the all-around player Seton Hall has desperately needed.

STRATEGY: Balance. That's what Amaker has been waiting for at Seton Hall. The Pirates will be a good 3-point shooting team as usual but will no longer rely on the outside shot as their main point source. Better front-line players should create interior scoring that the Pirates haven't had in the past. Amaker has already proved his ability to coach and recruit. Now comes the test: mixing experience and youth, creating some chemistry and moving the program to the next level. The Pirates have been to the tournament. The next step in mind is the Final Four.



CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

ADDITION BY REJECTION: Dalembert changed the dynamics of the Pirates' defense last season by averaging 3.6 blocks despite playing on a bad foot.

DATA

Pirates

Coach: Tommy Amaker (52-40, 3 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 22-10. Big East: 10-6/T4th. Lost to Oklahoma State in NCAA East semifinal.
Last league title: 1993.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.
Site: South Orange, N.J. **Website:** www.shupirates.com
Home court: Continental Airlines Arena (20,029).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Andre Barrett	5-8/165	Fr.	One of top recruits; is stellar playmaker.					
1	C	Samuel Dalembert*	6-11/232	So.	6.0	6.0	0.3	50.3	51.8	—
32	F	Reggie Garrett	6-6/196	Sr.	1.6	1.2	0.1	44.4	77.8	40.0
33	F	Eddie Griffin	6-9/205	Fr.	No. 1 reason for skyrocketing expectations.					
20	F	Al Harris	6-8/200	So.	2.8	2.1	0.1	50.9	50.0	0.0
4	G	Desmond Herod	6-4/177	So.	UNLV transfer will be a shooter at the Hall.					
30	G	Darius Lane*	6-4/223	Jr.	15.3	4.6	1.8	40.5	70.1	35.8
31	F	Charles Manga	6-10/239	Jr.	1.6	2.5	0.3	39.6	68.4	0.0
50	F	Greg Morton*	6-7/225	So.	3.9	4.7	0.9	51.0	48.9	—
0	G	Ty Shine	6-0/177	Jr.	7.8	1.7	2.0	40.3	65.1	32.0
13	F/G	Marcus Toney-El	6-6/200	Fr.	Can run. Has size. Tough matchup on wing.					
42	F	Kevin Wilkins	6-7/201	Sr.	3.0	2.7	0.4	39.6	37.9	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Shaheen Holloway*	5-10/175	13.2	5.1	5.6	44.7	78.0	40.3
G	Rimas Kaukenas*	6-4/185	13.2	3.5	2.1	43.0	88.2	38.6

2. Notre Dame

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N18 Sacred Heart
N22 Loyola (Ill.)
N25 Cincinnati*
D2 at Vanderbilt
D5 Indiana
D9 Miami (Ohio)
D17 Tennessee Tech
D19 Canisius
D21 Vermont
D29 Long Island
J3 at Syracuse
J6 Rutgers
J8 at Seton Hall
J13 at Kentucky
J16 Pittsburgh
J21 West Virginia
J23 Syracuse
J27 at Georgetown
F3 at Pittsburgh
F5 St. John's
F11 at West Virginia
F14 at Rutgers
F18 Seton Hall
F21 Boston College
F24 at Virginia Tech
F26 at Connecticut
M4 Georgetown
*Indianapolis

FRONTCOURT: When word got out that Matt Doherty was leaving Notre Dame to coach at his alma mater, North Carolina, there was no shortage of coaches who wanted to take his spot in South Bend. That's understandable. All the tradition. The Golden Dome. The expectations for this season. Troy Murphy. Troy Murphy. Troy Murphy. The Big East Player of the Year resides in South Bend and is back for another season—even though Doherty is gone. Former Delaware coach Mike Brey is the lucky one who inherits this talented All-American who will be the focus of everything the Fighting Irish do. Murphy's decision to stay was based on more than just coaching. In fact, he may fool everyone and stay four years at Notre Dame. Wouldn't that be refreshing. It would unless you are a Big East coach who has to find a way to halt his scoring and rebounding. Murphy had 20 double-doubles last season. David Graves, the other starting forward last season, returns as well. Center Harold Swanagan is back, and he will be supported by Ivan Kartelo and Jere Macura. But one of the biggest reasons for optimism is forward Ryan Humphrey, a transfer from Oklahoma, who should contribute immediately at the small forward spot.

BACKCOURT: Point guard Jimmy Dillon is gone, and though he was underrated, the Irish shouldn't have much difficulty replacing him. Senior Martin Inglesby started at

the point two seasons ago. Freshmen Torrian Jones and Chris Markwood are also candidates for the job. Whoever runs the show will include shooting guard Matt Carroll in the passing plans. Carroll averaged 9.8 points last season, giving the Irish much-needed outside shooting. Murphy often becomes a member of the backcourt, sneaking out and hitting 3-pointers. And no one has complained.

KEY NEWCOMER: Murphy isn't the only player who was affected in a big way by the departure of Doherty. Humphrey transferred to South Bend because of his relationship with Doherty, who tried to recruit him while serving as an assistant coach for Roy Williams at Kansas. And when Murphy decided to bypass the NBA, Doherty and Notre Dame fans started getting excited about the possibilities with Humphrey and Murphy playing in the same frontcourt. If Humphrey feels deceived by Doherty's decision to return to North Carolina, he hasn't shown it. Humphrey has been nothing but gracious about Doherty's decision. As for Irish fans, they will still be able to enjoy one of the best front-line combinations in the conference as Humphrey adds muscle and scoring to the lineup.

STRATEGY: Brey, a disciple of Mike Krzyzewski's at Duke, was successful at Delaware. He was a finalist for the Notre Dame job when Doherty was hired and has made it clear that Notre Dame is a dream job. It isn't easy for players to change coaches every season, but the Irish adjusted quickly to Doherty, and the same can be expected with Brey, who will bring a similar enthusiasm to the job. Murphy should fit right into a system that features athletic wing players. Look for Notre Dame to be nationally ranked most of the season, contend for a division title in the Big East and finally return to the NCAA Tournament. And expect Murphy to continue his individual dominance of the Big East. There isn't another player in the conference quite like him.



TODD WARSHAW / ALLSPORT

PRIORITY ONE? Although most eyes will be on Murphy and Humphrey, what happens with Inglesby (24) and the other point guard candidates may determine Notre Dame's fate.

Fighting Irish

Coach: Mike Brey (first year, 99-52 overall, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 22-15. Big East: 8-8/T 6th. Lost to Wake Forest in NIT final.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: South Bend, Ind.
Home court: Joyce Center (11,418).
Website: www.und.com

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
13	G	Matt Carroll*	6-6/200	So.	9.8	2.6	2.1	40.3	76.9	35.0
34	F	David Graves*	6-6/208	Jr.	13.2	5.4	2.8	49.3	81.4	45.6
4	F	Ryan Humphrey	6-8/225	Sr.	Viable 2nd option who adds muscle at PF.					
24	G	Martin Inglesby	6-0/182	Sr.	4.7	0.9	1.7	45.1	92.3	42.4
20	G	Torrian Jones	6-4/185	Fr.	Expected to push Inglesby at PG.					
11	C	Ivan Kartelo	6-11/247	So.	2.5	2.3	0.8	53.8	46.7	—
51	G	Chris Markwood	6-5/185	Fr.	Has size and skill to play both guard spots.					
15	F	Jere Macura	6-9/218	So.	4.6	2.4	0.7	44.4	64.6	38.8
3	F	Troy Murphy*	6-10/237	Jr.	22.7	10.3	1.6	49.2	80.8	32.6
35	F	Hans Rasmussen	6-9/219	Sr.	Returns to team after a year and a half off.					
42	F	Harold Swanagan*	6-7/252	Jr.	6.4	4.6	1.0	54.2	60.4	0.0
5	G	Charles Thomas	6-0/147	Jr.	0.3	0.2	0.0	14.3	—	0.0
50	C	Tom Timmermans	6-11/235	Fr.	No rush for prospect from the Netherlands.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jimmy Dillon*	6-2/171	4.0	2.1	5.8	42.9	73.2	36.7
G	Mike Monserez	6-6/185	Transferred.					

BIG EAST

3. Georgetown

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: John Thompson no longer coaches the Hoyas, but centers still want to attend the House Built by Patrick, Alonzo and Dikembe. The centerpiece will be 6-11 senior co-captain Ruben Boumtje Boumtje, a third-team All-Big East selection last season.

He had surgery in May to repair a stress fracture in his left foot and should be primed for a big season. Extra playing time should benefit new starter Lee Scruggs, a skinny 6-11 senior with a good outside shot. Wesley Wilson is back after sitting out as a Prop 48 player. Small forwards Nat Burton, Victor Samnick and Omari Faulkner will split playing time.

BACK COURT: Coach Craig Esherick has fewer options here. SG Kevin Braswell developed into one of the conference's most successful point guards last season. He led the Hoyas in scoring and contributed in almost every department. Anthony Perry suffered through a seasonlong shooting slump and hopes to get back to form. Demetrius Hunter and Trenton Hillier return to provide depth. Freshman Luke Martin adds depth at the point.

KEY NEWCOMERS: So many big guys, so few positions. It will be a major upset if one of the Hoyas recruits doesn't explode at a forward spot. Mike Sweetney (25 ppg, 13 rpg in high school) and Faulkner (14 ppg, 10 rpg) are ready for prime time.

STRATEGY: Esherick can use many combinations and give opponents many looks. Not many teams will be able to match Georgetown's size, but don't be surprised if the Hoyas try a three-guard lineup often. Beating Syracuse in the Big East tournament and Virginia in triple OT in the NIT has Georgetown fans dreaming of the good old days.

Hoyas

Coach: Craig Esherick (27-25, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 19-15. Big East: 6-10/T 8th. Lost to California in NIT second round.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Website: www.guhoyas.com

Home court: MCI Center (20,600).

*1999-2000 starter										Highlighted names: projected starter		
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%		
44	C	R. Bou'tje Boumtje*	6-11/255Sr.		12.8	7.7	0.7	48.7	71.4	—		
12	G	Kevin Braswell*	6-2/190 Jr.		14.8	4.7	5.3	36.8	75.2	29.7		
25	G/F	Nat Burton	6-4/218 Sr.		7.1	4.8	1.1	41.4	61.3	25.9		
3	F	Omari Faulkner	6-6/215 Fr.		Lanky SF can add points/boards from wing.							
2	F	Courtland Freeman	6-9/222 So.		3.1	3.1	0.6	40.0	46.7	50.0		
20	G/F	Gharun Hester	6-4/205 Sr.		1.9	2.6	0.4	40.0	16.7	40.0		
1	G	Demetrius Hunter	6-2/208 So.		6.0	2.4	1.4	32.0	71.9	30.4		
10	G	Luke Martin	5-11/160Fr.		Aussie will spell Braswell at the point.							
5	G	Anthony Perry*	6-3/186 Sr.		8.7	3.4	1.7	34.7	70.1	28.7		
32	F	Gerald Riley	6-6/205 Fr.		GA's top player is a slasher with deep range.							
13	F	Victor Samnick	6-8/208 So.		4.3	4.4	0.9	36.1	44.9	0.0		
45	C	Lee Scruggs*	6-11/215Sr.		10.7	5.1	0.7	44.9	70.9	33.3		
34	F	Mike Sweetney	6-8/260 Fr.		Top 50 recruit is big, physical and can score.							
50	C	Wesley Wilson	6-11/250So.		Prop 48 student adds bulk and shot blocking.							

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Jameel Watkins*	6-10/244	4.1	3.3	0.2	41.7	49.2	—

Schedule

N17 Bethune-Cookman	D22 Md.-Eastern Shore	J25 UNLV	F21 at St. John's
N24-26 Honolulu	D31 at Houston	J27 Notre Dame	F24 Syracuse
Shootout	J3 at West Virginia	J29 at Syracuse	F28 Rutgers
D2 Nicholls State	J6 Seton Hall	F3 West Virginia	M4 at Notre Dame
D5 at Louisville	J13 Virginia Tech	F5 at Pittsburgh	
D9 Grambling	J15 at Seton Hall	F10 at Providence	
D12 Coastal Carolina	J20 Pittsburgh	F12 Villanova	
		F17 at Rutgers	

4. Syracuse

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: What will it take to replace Etan Thomas at center? Four or five players. Seriously. No one person is going to do everything that Thomas did the past three seasons. Syracuse will shift its frontcourt emphasis to PF Damone Brown, the lone

returning starter. He has shown flashes of brilliance, has a versatile game and can put on a dunking show. But he doesn't replace Thomas. Backup post players Billy Celuck, Ethan Cole and Jeremy McNeil have played 172 minutes combined. Freshman Greg Davis could supply a few rebounds.

BACK COURT: Allen Griffin, who started 33 games at shooting guard two years ago, made the ultimate sacrifice last year. He moved to point guard and worked as Jason Hart's understudy. It paid off. Griffin is the starter this season. He won't have to carry the entire load. James Thues is an exciting freshman who can spell Griffin at the point. DeShaun Williams, inconsistent and sometimes irritating last season, inherits the shooting guard spot.

KEY NEWCOMER: Cole, a transfer from New Hampshire who started 27 games as a sophomore, may get a chance to replace Thomas at center. If he plays well early, coach Jim Boeheim may rethink the center-by-committee concept. Cole's previous experience, plus all he learned while sitting out, could come in handy.

STRATEGY: Boeheim must replace over 50 percent of the Orangemen's points and rebounds from last season. He lost Thomas, Hart, Ryan Blackwell and starting guard Tony Bland, who transferred to San Diego State. But Boeheim has faced seasons with less depth. Give this young team time to find itself, and don't be surprised if Syracuse is in the hunt for an NCAA bid.

Orangemen

Coach: Jim Boeheim (575-199, 24 years; 31-13 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 26-6. Big East: 13-3/T 1st. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA Midwest semifinal.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Syracuse, N.Y.

Website: www.suathletics.com

Home court: Carrier Dome (33,000).

*1999-2000 starter										Highlighted names: projected starter		
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%		
55	F	Damone Brown*	6-9/200 Sr.		10.7	6.1	1.4	51.1	67.1	16.7		
35	C	Billy Celuck	7-0/216 Sr.		2.5	1.0	0.4	68.4	63.6	—		
32	F	Ethan Cole	6-10/235 Jr.		Looking at transfer to fill Thomas' shoes.							
33	F	Greg Davis	6-8/215 Fr.		Only needs to fill out to blossom on front line.							
13	F/G	Kueth Duany	6-6/186 So.		3.2	1.9	0.3	41.8	76.9	25.0		
1	G	Allen Griffin	6-1/186 Sr.		3.0	1.1	1.7	43.5	74.1	14.3		
24	G	Rob McClanaghan	6-2/199 Sr.		0.8	0.3	0.0	40.0	0.0	50.0		
34	F	Jeremy McNeil	6-8/248 Fr.		1.5	2.2	0.0	60.0	60.0	—		
3	G	Preston Shumpert	6-6/188 Jr.		10.3	3.0	0.8	47.2	83.3	42.9		
15	G	James Thues	5-10/170Fr.		Exciting frosh dunks at 5-10. PG understudy.							
21	G	DeShaun Williams	6-3/198 So.		6.3	1.5	1.7	42.9	76.2	41.8		

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Ryan Blackwell*	6-8/227	10.8	7.2	3.1	42.9	68.1	25.7
F	Tony Bland*	6-4/180	Transferred to San Diego State.					
G	Jason Hart*	6-3/177	11.9	3.0	6.5	41.1	73.4	33.0
C	Etan Thomas*	6-9/247	13.6	9.3	0.6	60.2	67.8	—

Schedule

N19 St. Francis (N.Y.)	D22 Tennessee	J21 at Seton Hall	F13 Miami
N23-25 Great Alaska S.O.	D28 Columbia	J23 at Notre Dame	F17 at West Virginia
N28 Colgate	D30 Niagara	J27 Rutgers	F19 Connecticut
D1-2 Carrier Classic	J3 Notre Dame	J29 Georgetown	F24 at Georgetown
D5 Albany	J6/7 at Pittsburgh	F3 at NC State	F27 Pittsburgh
D17 UW-Green Bay	J9/10 at Rutgers	F7 at Boston College	M4 at St. John's
	J13 West Virginia	F10 Seton Hall	

5. Pittsburgh

NATIONAL RANK
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FRONTCOURT: Isaac Hawkins may be the most appreciated returnee in the conference. The undersized Panthers missed him tremendously. He's ready for an All-Big East season after breaking his right leg and sitting out all of last season. Chris Seabrooks was

one of the most improved players in the Big East filling in for Hawkins. Now Hawkins, Seabrooks, Donatas Zavackas and freshman Toree Morris will be interchangeable on a more formidable front line. Morris gives the Panthers a physical presence for the first time since Mark Blount.

BACKCOURT: Wing player is the only label suitable for Ricardo Greer. He defines that role perfectly because he can play shooting guard or small forward. Forget the position, just let him do his thing. Greer was among conference leaders in rebounds, scoring, steals and assists last season. He remains a major weapon, although the Panthers have other options. Point guard Brandin Knight must distribute the ball well to take full advantage of those weapons. Junior Chad Johnson is back to provide depth.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Coach Ben Howland needs someone to step forward and fill the vacancy left by shooting guard Jarrett Lockhart. Freshmen Julius Page and Yuri Demetris will compete for that spot. Page scored 1,541 points in his high school career. Demetris averaged 30.7 points as a senior.

STRATEGY: Howland's "Recruit to Shoot" philosophy is obvious in the crop of new players arriving. Look for improved perimeter play. For the first time in a long time the Panthers have talent and depth. If they stay healthy and play Howland's disciplined style of defense, the Panthers could be dramatically improved.

DATA

Panthers

Coach: Ben Howland (13-15, 1 year; 92-74 overall, 6 years).

1999-2000 record: 13-15. Big East: 5-11/11th.

Last league title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Pittsburgh.

Website: www.pittsburghpanthers.com

Home court: Fitzgerald Field House (6,798).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Jaron Brown	6-4/225	Fr.	Ran offense as redshirt. Best bet to start PG.					
3	G	Yuri Demetris	6-4/200	Fr.	Shooter with great work ethic and floor sense.					
25	G/F	Ricardo Greer*	6-5/220	Sr.	18.1	9.8	3.2	46.4	64.2	33.0
52	F	Isaac Hawkins	6-8/210	Sr.	Proven All Big East potential at PF if healthy.					
15	G/F	Chad Johnson	6-5/215	Jr.	Nebraska transfer could be lineup wild card.					
20	G	Brandin Knight*	6-0/175	So.	8.5	3.8	5.5	40.1	55.1	32.5
30	F	Mark McCarroll	6-10/210	Fr.	Shot blocker with good jumper inside 15 ft.					
55	C	Toree Morris	6-10/280	Fr.	Good hands, great strength, solid on boards.					
1	G	Julius Page	6-3/180	Fr.	Decent 3-point shooter with great hops.					
33	C	Chris Seabrooks*	6-9/230	Jr.	10.7	6.9	0.5	52.9	53.7	0.0
22	G/F	Zelimir Stevanovic	6-7/205	Fr.	Hard-nosed wing will compete at off-guard.					
2	F	Chevy Troutman	6-7/230	Fr.	Tough rebounder who is also plenty athletic.					
5	F	Donatas Zavackas*	6-8/225	So.	7.5	4.4	1.0	41.3	76.8	33.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jeremy Holmes	6-0/170	5.5	2.3	4.5	38.2	58.5	32.9
G	Jarrett Lockhart*	6-3/195	11.9	3.8	0.9	38.0	77.8	32.6

Schedule

N17 N. Carolina A&T	D17 at Va. Commonwealth	J16 at Notre Dame	F15 at Seton Hall
N20 Morris Brown	D21 at Duquesne	J20 at Georgetown	F24 Rutgers
N25 Marist	D28 Robert Morris	J23 at Providence	F27 at Syracuse
N29 at St. Francis (Pa.)	D30 New Orleans	J31 West Virginia	M3 Virginia Tech
D2 Nebraska	J3 Miami	F3 Notre Dame	
D6 at Penn State	J6/7 Syracuse	F5 Georgetown	
D9 St. Francis (N.Y.)	J10 at Connecticut	F8 at West Virginia	
	J13 Seton Hall	F11 at Rutgers	

6. Rutgers

NATIONAL RANK
109

FRONTCOURT: Rarely has coach Kevin Bannon been able to discuss the luxury of depth or size in the Rutgers frontcourt. This season appears to be different. Swingman Jeff Greer, power forward Rashod Kent and center Eugene Dabney are three of the four

returning starters. Greer, a senior captain, is coming off a solid season and is on pace to become the third player in Rutgers history to total 1,000 points, 500 rebounds and 250 assists. Kent has become a bruising force around the basket. Dabney may be pushed for playing time by Kareem Wright and Kaspars Cipruss.

BACKCOURT: Everything starts with PG Todd Billet. After an impressive freshman season, even more will be expected of him. He is Rutgers' leading returning scorer (12.8 ppg) and playmaker (4.3 assists). He also led Rutgers in 3-pointers made and percentage. In a conference decimated at the point position, Billet should emerge as one of the best. But he won't be dishing off to Dahntay Jones. The team's leading scorer (16 ppg) transferred to Duke in May, leaving a hole at shooting guard.

KEY NEWCOMER: Rutgers signed five players, but PG Mike Sherrod appears to be the only one with a chance to make an impact this season. Sherrod, a tough defender, will give Billet a chance to rest and remain on top of his game.

STRATEGY: With four starters back, the Knights should be better. But who carries the scoring load without Jones? Expect Bannon to use many front-line combinations early, looking for the best rotation. More will be expected from Billet, and he should be able to produce. For the Knights to be successful, it will be important for the team to win early and gain confidence.

DATA

Scarlet Knights

Coach: Kevin Bannon (48-44, 3 years; 324-175 overall, 18 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-16. Big East: 6-10/T8th. Lost to Kent in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1991 (Atlantic 10).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: New Brunswick, N.J.

Website: www.athletics.rutgers.edu

Home court: Brown Athletic Center (8,500).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	F	Sean Axani	6-7/220	Fr.	Redshirt sat out '99-00 with fractured foot.					
22	G	Todd Billet*	6-0/180	So.	12.8	2.2	4.3	40.4	82.7	40.0
30	G	Renardo Brown	6-1/200	Sr.	1.7	0.3	0.3	31.8	75.0	12.5
	C	Kaspars Cipruss	6-11/250	Fr.	Big Latvian should give help on the boards.					
5	F/C	Eugene Dabney*	6-10/225	So.	3.7	3.3	0.6	48.8	62.5	—
15	G	Connor Fox	6-1/170	Jr.	0.4	0.0	0.3	20.0	50.0	33.3
25	G	Jeff Greer*	6-5/180	Sr.	11.9	4.6	2.6	43.3	64.2	39.4
44	F/C	Rashod Kent*	6-6/265	Jr.	8.9	6.9	1.6	59.8	46.6	0.0
	G	Mike Sherrod	6-2/180	Fr.	Tough defender should spell Billet at PG.					
24	F	Mike Tompson	6-7/220	Jr.	3.4	2.0	0.4	49.2	54.5	14.3
55	F/C	Kareem Wright	6-9/285	So.	2.0	1.9	0.1	32.3	50.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Luis Flores	6-2/180	3.9	Transferred to Manhattan.				
G	Dahntay Jones*	6-5/210	16.0	4.6	Transferred to Duke.			
F	Joel Salvi	6-7/215	6.8	5.4	1.6	41.8	71.4	50.0

Schedule

N19 Fairleigh Dickinson	D9 at Florida	J14 St. John's	F17 Georgetown
N21 Lafayette	D14 at Princeton	J17 at West Virginia	F21 Seton Hall
N25 Bucknell	D16 Stony Brook	J20 at Boston College	F24 at Pittsburgh
N29 Rider	D27-28 ECAC Holiday Fest.	J24 West Virginia	F28 at Georgetown
D2 James Madison	J2 at Villanova	J27 at Syracuse	M3 Providence
D5 St. Joseph's	J6 at Notre Dame	F4 at Seton Hall	
	J9/10 Syracuse	F11 Pittsburgh	
		F14 Notre Dame	

7. West Virginia

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: It's hard to imagine a starting lineup without versatile forward Marcus Goree. He did everything for the Mountaineers, but his college days have expired and coach Gale Catlett must replace Goree's points and rebounds. Center Calvin

Bowman would be a good start. Bowman finished last season strong, averaging 18.3 points his last four games. Junior Chris Moss started only 10 games but put up some good numbers. Jamar Gaither, who has had an injury-plagued career and played in just seven games last season, was dismissed from the team.

BACK COURT: Everything starts here. With Lionel Armstead and Tim Lyles, West Virginia has one of the Big East's best backcourt combinations. Junior off-guard Armstead averaged 11.8 points last season, nearly doubling his output from the year before, and became the team's top 3-point threat. Point guard Lyles showed promise as a freshman, averaging 7.8 points and 4.5 assists. Senior swingman Brooks Berry is capable of better production. Freshman Tobias Seldon adds depth at both backcourt spots.

KEY NEWCOMER: The most intriguing addition may be Michael Ayodele, a 6-7 forward from Toronto. Ayodele averaged 28 points and 15 rebounds in high school and played for the Team Toronto summer traveling squad. Recruiting experts say he is a player with enormous potential for improvement.

STRATEGY: The Mountaineers have to be commended for going 14-14 last season without a homecourt. It looks like the situation will be the same because the project to rid the WVU Coliseum of its asbestos problem is behind schedule. One positive is all the traveling has resulted in the team developing good chemistry.

DATA

Mountaineers

Coach: Gale Catlett (414-249, 22 years; 540-293 overall, 27 years; 7-11 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 14-14, Big East: 6-10/T8th.

Last league title: 1989.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Morgantown, W. Va. **Website:** www.wvu.edu/~sports

Home court: WVU Coliseum (14,000).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
30	G	Lionel Armstead*	5-11/175	Jr.	11.8	3.2	2.1	43.8	79.5	36.7
	F	Michael Ayodele	6-7/220	Fr.	Canadian PF has big upside but needs time.					
13	F	Brooks Berry*	6-6/210	Sr.	5.1	3.0	1.1	40.4	68.2	31.2
41	F/C	Calvin Bowman*	6-9/220	Sr.	12.1	5.9	1.3	52.2	66.4	0.0
50	C	Ales Chan	6-11/240	So.	1.2	1.2	0.2	40.0	100.0	—
	G	Jay Hewitt	6-7/210	Fr.	More shooting guard than true wing threat.					
12	G	Tim Lyles	5-11/190	So.	7.8	2.7	4.5	33.2	66.3	30.2
31	F	Chris Moss*	6-8/225	Jr.	8.9	6.4	1.1	52.9	50.6	50.0
45	F	John Oliver	6-9/235	Jr.	1.0	1.3	0.5	38.1	77.8	—
	G	Tobias Seldon	6-3/200	Fr.	Must contribute to provide backcourt depth.					
22	G/F	Josh Yeager	6-6/180	So.	1.8	1.0	0.6	42.9	100.0	27.3

Key Losses

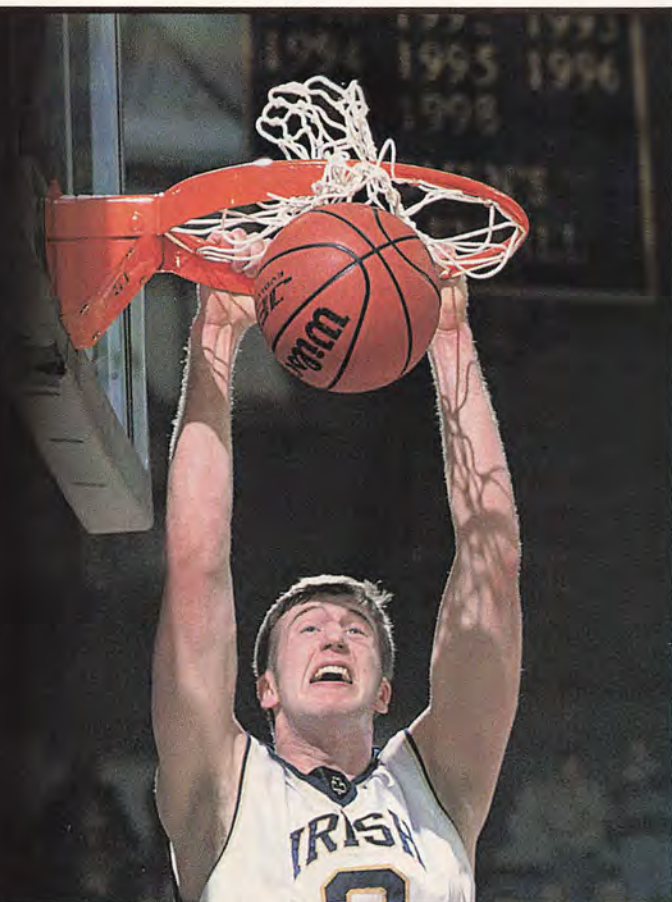
Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jason D'Alesio	6-1/190	3.8	1.4	0.5	33.3	60.0	28.1
C	Jamar Gaither	6-8/265	2.4	Dismissed.				
F	Marcus Goree*	6-8/230	14.5	8.2	1.9	53.2	71.0	38.2
F	Keith Kincade	6-5/180	3.2	Transferred.				

Schedule

N18 Morris Brown	D19 at Ohio U.	J24 at Rutgers	F20 Villanova
N21 American	D28 at Jms. Madison	J27 Seton Hall	F25 at Seton Hall
N25 UNC Greensboro	D30 Delaware State	J31 at Pittsburgh	F28 at Miami
N28 at Duquesne	J3 Georgetown	F3 at Georgetown	M3 Boston College
D2 Tennessee	J9 Marshall*	F8 Pittsburgh	*Charleston Civic Center
D7 High Point	J13 at Syracuse	F11 Notre Dame	
D16 Robert Morris	J17 Rutgers	F14 at Virginia Tech	
	J21 at Notre Dame	F17 Syracuse	

25

The number of times Troy Murphy led Notre Dame in both scoring and rebounding his sophomore season. In 37 games, Murphy had 20 double-doubles and failed to lead Notre Dame in either points or rebounds only once. The return of a dominant Murphy for his junior year makes new Irish coach Mike Brey's transition to the Big East a much smoother one.



BRIAN SPURLOCK

Conference USA

ASCENDING: Memphis. After nearly two decades of ambivalent (or worse) coaching, this program has a genuine star in John Calipari. With access to superior regional talent and impressive community support, the Tigers should join Cincinnati as the league's top cats in a couple of years.

DESCENDING: Louisville. Next year's recruiting class is likely to be loaded, but

By Mike DeCourcy

The Sporting News

Predictions

American Division

1. Cincinnati*
2. DePaul*
3. Charlotte
4. Marquette
5. Louisville
6. Saint Louis

National Division

1. Memphis*
2. South Florida
3. Southern Mississippi
4. UAB
5. Houston
6. Tulane

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference USA

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kenny Satterfield, Cincinnati	6-2	185	So.
G	Brian Wardle, Marquette	6-5	205	Sr.
F	Altron Jackson, South Florida	6-6	180	Jr.
C	Kelly Wise, Memphis	6-10	213	Jr.
F	George Williams, Houston	6-8	215	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Reece Gaines, Louisville	6-6	185	So.
F/G	Bobby Simmons, DePaul	6-7	210	Jr.
F	B.B. Waldon, South Florida	6-8	210	Jr.
F	Rodney White, Charlotte	6-8	230	Fr.
F	David Wall, Southern Miss	6-5	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Kenny Satterfield, G, Cincinnati

Newcomer of the Year

Rodney White, F, Charlotte

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Brian Wardle, Marquette
- Best rebounder:** George Williams, Houston
- Best playmaker:** Kenny Satterfield, Cincinnati
- Best defender:** Kelly Wise, Memphis
- Best leaper:** Jimmy Baxter, South Florida
- Best under 6-1:** Steve Logan, Cincinnati
- Best over 6-11:** Steve Hunter, DePaul
- Most versatile:** Chonsey Asbury, South Florida
- Most flamboyant:** Myron Ransom, UAB
- Best NBA prospect:** Kenny Satterfield, Cincinnati

for now the Cardinals are dealing with an empty front-court. If Denny Crum can keep this team far removed from the American Division basement, he will have earned the chance to borrow the Ray Meyer coach of the year award from Bob Huggins.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO

FILL: Justin Love, Saint Louis. Love led the Billikens in scoring in 65 percent of their games. There's no obvious candidate to take his place, just a little-used veteran (Drew Diener) and a bunch of newcomers (Josh Fisher, Chris Sloan, and Floyd McClain). Scoring will be a chore for SLU once again.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

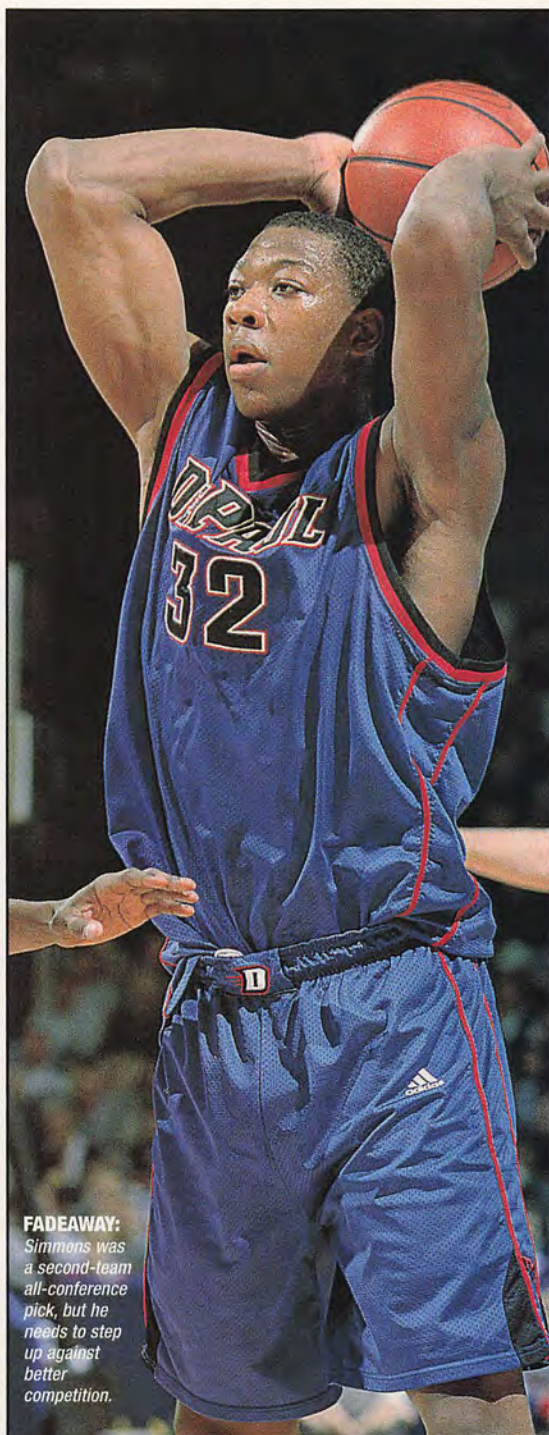
Brian Wardle, Marquette. Although he was an obvious target for opposing defenses, Wardle led the Golden Eagles in scoring in nine of their 15 wins and shot 44.5 percent from the field and 40 percent on 3-pointers. Voters still didn't find room for him on the all-conference first team.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

Bobby Simmons, DePaul. Obviously, earning this designation last year didn't motivate him, so here he is again. Simmons retreated from the most heated competition, scoring only 12 points combined in two games against Cincinnati and reaching double figures only five times in the final 10 regular season games. His talent needs to be complemented by toughness.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT:

Murry Bartow, UAB. His dad's not the athletic director anymore, his team's coming off a .500 season and even his better work was not fully appreciated. With a couple of stud JC recruits and a decent batch of veterans, this could



FADEAWAY: Simmons was a second-team all-conference pick, but he needs to step up against better competition.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

become his best season. That would be well timed.

BEST BETS: We'll get through a second consecutive season without anyone in charge concocting a legitimate reason why expansion to include East Carolina and Texas Christian as the 13th and 14th teams makes sense. ... Ray McCallum, who took over as Houston's head coach after Clyde Drexler resigned, will shock his players by talking to them during games. ... Rabid Memphis fans will be devastated when the loss column next to John Calipari's name no longer reads "0." ... Conference USA officials will lament the timing of their decision to take the league tournament to Louisville, as they did when Memphis endured a down season in 1999 and Saint Louis slipped in 1997. ... One or two of Charlotte's returning starters won't be starters when they return for this season. ... Conference USA will endure a sixth consecutive season with no more than four NCAA Tournament bids and no Final Four entrants. ... Cincinnati will lose half as many games by the end of November as in all of 1999-2000, leading to rampant speculation about their post-Kenyon Martin collapse. They'll end up with no worse than a No. 4 NCAA Tournament seed. ... Marquette point guard Cordell Henry will at last reach that magic number that eluded him through two seasons: He'll hit 40 percent from the field. ... DePaul coach Pat Kennedy will be ripped

by one Chicago newspaper's main sports columnist and lauded by the other's—on the same day, for the same decisions.

ODDS AND ENDS: When Conference USA was formed in 1995, every league member had made an NCAA Tournament trip in the 1990s. In five seasons since, four have been shut out (Tulane, Southern Mississippi, South Florida and Houston). C-USA teams received a combined 30 NCAA bids from 1990-'95, but only 19 since the league was born. ... Talk about bad timing: a bonus clause was added to Bob Huggins' contract that presents him with \$10,000 if he's named C-USA's coach of the year. That comes after he won the award a third consecutive time. ... Cincinnati has been seeded third or higher in the past five NCAA Tournaments; no other team can match that claim. ... In C-USA's four seasons, its members have won 17 NCAA Tournament games, which is fewer than any of the other top seven leagues in the Ratings Percentage Index standings. ... Conference USA was one of four leagues with two top 10 picks and one of four with at least three first-rounders in June's NBA Draft. By comparison, only one first-rounder and two players were drafted from the ACC. ... C-USA's No. 3 finish in last year's RPI conference standings was its best ever. ... Only one National Division team (UAB, 1999) has finished above .500 in league play the past two years. ... Houston has won four fewer games in four seasons of C-USA play than Cincinnati did last season (16).



Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
Alton Jackson	South Florida	18.2
B.B. Waldon	South Florida	17.3
David Wall	Southern Miss.	17.0
Brian Wardle	Marquette	16.6
Marques Maybin	Louisville	14.7

Name	School	RPG
Kelly Wise	Memphis	8.6
George Williams	Houston	8.5
Bobby Simmons	DePaul	7.9
B.B. Waldon	South Florida	7.9
David Walker	UAB	7.0

Name	School	APG
Kenny Satterfield	Cincinnati	5.4
Rashon Burno	DePaul	4.6
Courtney Trask	Memphis	4.6
Waitari Marsh	Tulane	4.3
Diego Guevara	Charlotte	4.0

Name	School	FG%
Kelly Wise	Memphis	56.1
Alton Jackson	South Florida	51.8
George Williams	Houston	51.6
B.B. Waldon	South Florida	50.6
Marques Maybin	Louisville	49.4

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
American	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Cincinnati	16	0	29	4	13	1	16	3
Louisville	10	6	19	12	13	2	6	10
DePaul	9	7	21	12	12	4	9	8
Marquette	8	8	15	14	12	4	3	10
Saint Louis	7	9	19	14	13	3	6	11
Charlotte	7	9	17	16	9	3	8	13
National	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Tulane	8	8	20	11	15	2	5	9
South Florida	8	8	17	14	11	2	6	12
Southern Miss.	7	9	17	12	8	4	9	8
UAB	7	9	14	14	12	2	2	12
Memphis	7	9	15	16	10	5	5	10
Houston	2	14	9	22	4	9	5	12

Ranking the Recruiting

1. Cincinnati. With their exodus of experience, the Bearcats went back down the JC road.
2. Charlotte. The mix of Rodney White and Demon Brown makes the 49ers a contender.
3. Memphis. SF John Grice is the kind of pure shooter the Tigers lacked.
4. DePaul. If the team can manage PG Imari Sawyer, this class will rank with the best.
5. Marquette. Having somebody like C Scott Merritt in the middle will prevent breakdowns.
6. Houston. Even a one-man class of F Alton Ford should be an improvement.
7. UAB. Desperate for legit wing scorers, it landed them in George Arnold, Eric Batchelor.
8. Louisville. The Cardinals built the foundation for future success with their frontcourt haul.
9. South Florida. The perimeter is deeper with 6-10 Mike Bernard and 6-9 Terrence Leather.
10. Saint Louis. SF Floyd McClain and SG Chris Sloan give Lorenzo Romar wing options.
11. Tulane. F Wayne Tinsley adds athleticism, and C George Brown adds size.
12. Southern Mississippi. Elvin Mims is a steal who can take a share of the scoring burden.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Cincinnati	33	48.0	70.1	35.9	38.6	15.6	7.2	6.8	13.6	77.6
South Florida	31	45.8	64.0	36.4	38.3	17.1	10.3	3.7	17.3	77.2
Houston	31	43.6	69.4	33.2	37.3	13.2	8.2	2.6	16.3	76.2
UAB	28	41.6	65.4	31.1	38.7	13.0	9.2	3.1	16.0	73.3
Memphis	31	42.0	65.8	34.1	38.8	14.5	7.7	4.4	16.9	73.2
Louisville	31	46.6	70.4	32.8	33.7	16.7	9.2	4.4	15.7	73.2
DePaul	33	45.3	67.1	34.6	39.5	15.0	8.1	3.8	16.3	72.3
Charlotte	33	40.1	70.6	32.8	37.6	13.0	6.7	2.4	13.6	68.1
Tulane	31	43.2	60.6	31.3	37.2	13.2	9.6	3.3	16.2	67.8
Southern Miss.	29	42.2	70.1	33.8	36.3	11.1	6.8	5.1	17.0	66.2
St. Louis	33	43.0	68.6	33.8	35.3	12.2	7.7	3.8	17.7	64.4
Marquette	29	42.0	64.6	35.0	36.9	12.4	5.7	1.5	15.6	62.8

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Cincinnati	33	38.3	65.2	33.3	33.7	11.8	5.9	2.5	16.2	61.5
Marquette	29	41.5	65.3	27.9	31.5	10.9	7.9	3.7	12.6	62.4
St. Louis	33	41.6	64.3	36.6	34.2	11.9	8.6	3.5	16.3	63.6
DePaul	33	42.2	65.1	32.4	31.5	12.6	7.4	2.9	15.8	64.3
Southern Miss.	29	42.2	68.7	29.8	36.3	10.5	8.2	4.2	15.5	64.9
Tulane	31	43.2	66.4	30.8	36.9	11.8	8.3	3.4	17.5	65.5
Charlotte	33	40.2	69.0	31.0	37.8	12.0	6.2	3.2	15.1	65.7
Louisville	31	42.4	68.0	33.5	35.4	12.6	6.8	3.2	19.1	66.2
Memphis	31	42.0	65.4	31.3	39.7	14.3	8.7	3.6	17.7	71.9
South Florida	31	42.9	68.7	34.8	36.3	13.4	7.6	3.6	18.7	66.2
UAB	28	41.6	70.4	34.1	40.0	15.5	8.3	4.5	19.2	74.9
Houston	31	43.6	64.4	33.2	41.6	15.9	8.6	4.4	17.3	79.9

1. Cincinnati

NATIONAL RANK

13

Schedule

N18 Boise State
 N21 Marshall
 N25 Notre Dame
 N29 at Dayton
 D11 Oakland
 D14 Xavier
 D16 at UNLV
 D20-22 Puerto Rico Shootout
 D28 UNC Wilmington
 D30 Toledo*
 J6 UNC Charlotte
 J10 at Marquette
 J13 at Louisville
 J17 UAB
 J20 at Temple
 J24 Louisville
 J27 Wake Forest
 J29 Tulane
 F1 at UNC Charlotte
 F3 DePaul
 F7 at St. Louis
 F10 at Southern Mississippi
 F15 at Memphis
 F18 Marquette
 F21 St. Louis
 F24 Houston
 M1 at South Florida
 M3 at DePaul
 *Cleveland

FRONTCOURT: You can add up all the numbers you want to suggest this unit is in trouble. The loss of player of the year Kenyon Martin and three other seniors removed 44 points, 25 rebounds and five blocks per game. But the Bearcats will depend on numbers to survive those departures. With 6-10 Donald Little and 6-11 B.J. Grove in the middle, this is one tall bunch of Bearcats for coach Bob Huggins. Little is an impressive shot blocker, averaging nearly as many blocks per minute as Martin did. Little also is a skilled face-up shooter, but he must resolve persistent problems with his hands. Grove has potential as a low-post scorer but has been slow to mature and meet Huggins' demands for commitment and conditioning. They complement each other well, and the team needs both to succeed. JC recruit Jamaal Davis is not nearly as dynamic as sophomore Eugene Land, who was lost for the year because of reconstructive knee surgery, but Davis could fill the team's need for a reliable rebounder and defender after a month or two in Huggins' system. Nearly all of the hopes for sufficient production at small forward surround Antwan Jones, rated among the nation's top three JC recruits and an exceptional shooter and athlete. With Jones, Land and Little up front, Cincinnati would have its quickest front-court since the 1993 Elite Eight team.

BACKCOURT: All those panicking at the sight of Martin and company leaving should remember when Cincinnati had the big bodies but no one to get them the ball. At last, the strength is guard play. The two who will play the point, Kenny Satterfield and Steve Logan, were among the final 16 players for the U.S. national young men's team. Satterfield made the cut, and the offense will be his to run. He penetrates better than any returning guard, and the trick now is to become comfortable dumping the ball inside after drawing the defenders who used to stay with Martin. Satterfield also needs to improve as a shooter, especially after the catch. Logan is a solid shooter, but his size (6-0) causes problems when teams overplay him for the shot. Cincinnati needs to work harder to spring him, and he needs a counter-move for when defenders run at him. Sophomore Leonard Stokes, the team's most versatile player, will play both wing spots and has a shot at starting. His dependability and shooting will be compared with JC recruit Immanuel McElroy's playmaking and athleticism to see which fit best in the lineup.

KEY NEWCOMER: Jones averaged 19.1 points at Tallahassee C.C. last season and has been compared by one C-USA coach to Miami Heat guard Eddie Jones. The key for Antwan Jones is becoming comfortable with the physical demands of Huggins' program and the defensive burden he will carry.

STRATEGY: Huggins' past few teams focused first on halfcourt defense, but it's hard to imagine he can turn such an inexperienced group into that sort of machine. There may be more full-court presses like the one that brought them back in the NCAA loss to Tulsa. They'll probably need it to generate offense, because Little is not as reliable an inside target as Martin, and there's no DerMarr Johnson to create scoring opportunities. With their wealth of ballhandlers—and Satterfield among the best running the break—it would be wise for the Bearcats to push the pace on offense more often than in recent years.



IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT: Satterfield, who penetrates better than any returning guard but needs to improve his shooting, will be handed the controls of the Bearcats offense.

DATA

Bearcats

Coach: Bob Huggins (276-86, 11 years; 444-158 overall, 19 years; 15-10 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 29-4. C-USA American: 16-0/1st. Lost to Tulsa in NCAA South second round.

Last league title: 2000 (American Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.

Site: Cincinnati.

Website: www.ucbearcats.com

Home court: Myrl Shoemaker Center (13,176).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
1	F	Jamaal Davis	6-8/230	Jr.	A physical player who can score inside.					
24	F	Rod Flowers	6-8/222	Fr.	Superb rebounder was on Ala. all-state team.					
44	C	B.J. Grove	6-11/255	So.	1.9	1.8	0.1	35.3	33.3	—
3	F	Antwan Jones	6-8/205	Jr.	Best at small forward and fearless inside.					
33	F	Eugene Land	6-7/235	So.	Showed offensive potential before sitting out.					
50	C	Donald Little	6-10/225	So.	1.2	13.9	0.2	36.0	52.2	—
22	G	Steve Logan	6-0/200	Jr.	9.8	1.8	3.6	41.7	84.9	41.7
23	G	Immanuel McElroy	6-4/195	Jr.	Effective JC defender averaged 8.5 rpg.					
11	G	Kenny Satterfield*	6-2/185	So.	9.2	3.4	5.4	43.0	76.7	29.8
13	G	Leonard Stokes	6-6/205	So.	2.3	0.6	0.5	39.3	82.4	25.9
2	G	Field Williams	6-3/190	Fr.	Texas Mr. Basketball shot 62% from the arc.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	DerMarr Johnson*	6-9/200	12.6	3.8	1.4	47.8	73.7	37.1
C	Kenyon Martin*	6-9/230	18.9	9.7	1.4	56.8	68.4	28.6
F	Pete Mickeal*	6-6/230	13.5	6.3	1.8	50.4	72.3	33.5
F	Jermaine Tate*	6-9/235	4.6	4.6	0.8	50.8	43.1	—

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2. DePaul

NATIONAL RANK

24

Schedule

N17 Fairleigh Dickinson
N22-25 Great Alaska Sh'tout
N28 Savannah State
D2 at Florida
D6 at Missouri
D9 Chicago State
D12 Kansas
D17 St. Joseph's (Pa.)
D23 Northern Illinois
D30 Fairfield
J6 Marquette
J10 at Southern Mississippi
J13 Memphis
J17 UNC Charlotte
J20 at St. Louis
J25 at South Florida
J27 at Louisville
J31 St. Louis
F3 at Cincinnati
F7 Houston
F10 UCLA
F14 Louisville
F17 at Tulane
F22 at Marquette
F24 UAB
F28 at UNC Charlotte
M3 Cincinnati

FRONTCOURT: The Blue Demons have as rich and deep a post rotation as any team in the nation and need only to discover how best to mix their many ingredients. The injury to post man Lance Williams last season forced C Steve Hunter into the lineup, which meant he got more experience than expected but that no one got a good idea how they might function together. Williams needs to be down low to be effective—he's a bear to stop when he gets the ball at his spot—but Hunter doesn't offer much offensively unless he's near the goal. Williams likely will be the go-to guy, and Hunter will be counted on for offensive rebounds. What makes the team particularly frightening is that if Williams were to go down again, it has two behind him who might be even more talented, although sophomore Jon Oden and freshman Andre Brown have yet to play in Division I. To play at a championship level, these guys and small forward Bobby Simmons will have to be better defensively. Simmons is not the quickest on the wing, but he's got long arms and big hands that could serve him well if he would be more forceful. Simmons could react to Quentin Richardson's absence by playing more assertively and aggressively. Simmons' versatility is the key to replacing Richardson's enormous contributions.

BACKCOURT: It's not clear whether DePaul has one too many point guards or one too few. Freshman Imari Sawyer is as

gifted as nearly all of the playmakers who made the McDonald's All-America team ahead of him, but he's also the most frustratingly misdirected. In summer play, Sawyer often presided over dysfunctional teams, as he forced action and created nearly as many turnovers as baskets. Although it could cost the team in terms of perimeter shooting, playing Sawyer with junior Rashon Burno is one solution. That would keep Burno's leadership on the court and allow Sawyer to attack defenses from the wing. Burno is not the most creative point, and his lack of size makes him vulnerable on defense. But he has demonstrated a commitment to winning, and he creates havoc with his ability to steal. DePaul's options at shooting guard are limited, anyway. Coach Pat Kennedy has talked of using a frontcourt with Hunter, Williams and Oden or Brown, but shifting Simmons to the backcourt makes the team dangerously slow. Otherwise, the Demons are stuck with spot-shooter Joe Tulley or George Baker, who handles well but isn't that quick.

KEY NEWCOMER: Coaches speak with reverence about power forward Oden, who runs the court extremely well for a player his size and has a knack for killing defenders with quick post moves. His athletic ability makes him potentially viable at small forward, and his inside scoring ability might be more effective if he's matched against wings.

STRATEGY: If Richardson had not bolted for a spot in the middle of the NBA draft's first round, this would have been DePaul's time to mature into playing as it wished. Instead, it will need to disguise its lack of speed and perimeter shooting and emphasize its overwhelming frontcourt and Sawyer's one-on-one skills. It is a volatile mix that presents another daunting challenge for Kennedy, especially with so much pressure in Chicago for the Demons to deliver. If he gets it exactly right, DePaul could have its first league championship.



THE DEMON IS A BEAR: Williams, who can be dominating when he gets the ball in the right spot, is likely to be the go-to guy in a deep and talented frontcourt rotation.

DATA

Blue Demons

Coach: Pat Kennedy (46-48, 3 years; 372-239 overall, 20 years; 6-8 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 21-12. C-USA American: 9-7/3rd. Lost to Kansas in NCAA East first round.

Last league title: 1992 (tie, Great Midwest).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Chicago.

Website: www.depaulbluedemons.com

Home court: Allstate Arena (17,500); United Center (21,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	G	George Baker	6-3/190	So.	2.3	1.1	1.7	51.0	64.0	35.7
	F	Andre Brown	6-9/230	Fr.	USA World Youth Games gold medalist.					
22	G	David Bruno	6-2/185	Sr.	0.4	0.3	0.3	50.0	50.0	0.0
11	G	Rashon Burno*	5-7/175	Jr.	6.7	3.2	4.6	36.3	64.6	34.2
10	G	Brian Cashin	6-1/170	Sr.	1.6	0.4	0.8	57.1	60.0	100.0
30	G	Snead Deadrick	6-3/185	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
45	C	Steve Hunter*	7-0/215	So.	8.5	3.9	0.3	57.9	70.7	0.0
31	F	Jon Oden	6-8/215	So.	Averaged 19 ppg in HS but sat out last year.					
	G	Imari Sawyer	6-2/170	Fr.	Scored over 40 points three times in HS.					
32	F/G	Bobby Simmons*	6-7/210	Jr.	13.1	7.9	1.6	46.1	75.9	32.6
12	G	Joe Tulley	6-2/180	So.	2.7	0.8	0.6	33.3	60.0	25.8
52	C	Lance Williams	6-9/250	Jr.	6.0	3.3	0.0	45.7	54.3	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Kerry Hartfield	6-1/185	5.8	1.0	1.7	36.8	46.2	33.8
G	Paul McPherson*	6-4/210	11.2	4.9	1.8	53.0	62.9	31.3
G	Quentin Richardson*	6-6/225	17.0	9.8	2.2	43.2	70.6	37.6

3. Charlotte

NATIONAL RANK

49

FRONTCOURT: All hail Rodney White. Having a post presence like him would have meant another three or four wins last year. As hard as they worked on offense, the 49ers were strictly a jump-shooting team. Now, they can throw it to White and force

opponents to react. White not only can score on the block, he's got a midrange game facing the goal. The 49ers are calling him an NBA-caliber prospect. Small forward James Zimmerman was solid and productive last year but overmatched. He has to shoot better than 30 percent on 3-pointers to be a tournament-caliber wing. White and freshmen Kevin Johnson and Tory Reed and JC transfer Cam Stephens can make the team competitive up front.

BACKCOURT: When shooting guard Jobey Thomas doesn't have to sacrifice all his energy to get open, he is dangerous. He shot only 39 percent in the final seven games, after teams figured out he was the only Charlotte player to fear. With White to lure defensive attention inside, Thomas should be liberated. Diego Guevara is a clutch shooter but a defensive liability, so having freshman Demon Brown to front the defensive attack will help. Coach Bobby Lutz has waited two years for a point guard who fits the mold he wants: "a jet." Brown is that guy.

KEY NEWCOMER: After signing in '99 but failing to qualify, White went to Newport Prep in Maryland and averaged 20 ppg and 10 rpg. He is the highest-rated signee ever at Charlotte.

STRATEGY: This is a more talented group than Lutz has coached, but also less experienced. The 49ers rely on game preparation and execution for a lot of their success, which means it may take time for this team to reach fruition.

DATA 49ers

Coach: Bobby Lutz (40-27, 2 years; 221-118 overall, 11 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 17-16. C-USA American: 7-9/T5th. Lost to Mississippi in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1997 (White Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Charlotte, N.C.

Website: www.charlotte49ers.com

Home court: Dale F. Haltron Arena (9,105).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	Demon Brown	6-1/175	Fr.	An elite prep guard, sat out last season.					
50	C	Malik El-Tamer	6-10/235 Jr.		11	ppg, 8	rpg, 3	bpg in last year of JC.		
21	G	Diego Guevara*	6-1/185	Sr.	11.9	2.6	4.0	36.6	89.3	35.4
54	F	Kevin Johnson	6-7/200	Fr.	Provides team with more size on the wing.					
3	F	KenKay Jones*	6-9/215	Sr.	5.5	4.7	0.3	47.5	45.6	—
2	F	Tory Reed	6-8/240	Fr.	Physical, can score and crash the boards.					
10	F	Cam Stephens	6-8/220	Jr.	Provides rebounding skill in young frontcourt.					
31	G	Jobey Thomas*	6-4/195	Jr.	13.9	3.2	1.2	42.4	79.6	33.9
25	G	Dee Tolliver	6-4/175	Sr.	2.4	0.7	0.3	36.7	90.9	39.0
5	F	Rodney White	6-8/230	Fr.	Solid ballhandler who can shoot the 3.					
13	C	Jermaine Williams	6-10/225 Jr.		Low-post blocker who thrives in this tempo.					
41	G	Jonathan Williams	6-2/185	So.	0.7	0.0	0.0	50.0	100.0	50.0
1	G	J. Zimmerman*	6-5/200	Sr.	9.9	6.1	3.0	36.7	72.2	29.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Tremaine Gardiner*	6-5/210	12.2	7.3	1.3	46.2	76.8	32.8
D	Dalonte Hill	6-5/200	Transferred to Bowie State.					
C	Kenny Whitehead	6-10/220	Transferred to James Madison.					

Schedule

N17-18 CoSIDA Classic	D20 at UTEP	J24 at UAB	F25 at St. Louis
N25 at St. Bonaventure	D29-30 AZCentral.com T.	J27 Southern Miss	F28 DePaul
N28 Miami (Fla.)	J3 George Washington	F1 Cincinnati	M3 Marquette
D2 South Carolina	J6 at Cincinnati	F4 at Houston	
D6 Charleston South.	J10 South Florida	F11 at Louisville	
D9 at Davidson	J13 St. Louis	F14 at Tulane	
D16 at Indiana	J17 at DePaul	F17 Memphis	
	J20 at Marquette	F21 Louisville	

4. Marquette

NATIONAL RANK

54

FRONTCOURT: The agony of Marquette's one and only game in the C-USA tournament was how consistently the Golden Eagles' attack broke down in the middle, whether John Mueller or Greg Clausen was on the floor. The hope is that freshman center

Scott Merritt will solve that problem. He may not be ready to excel, but he's big enough to hold his ground, and survival will suffice. The other inside spot is well-manned by Jon Harris and Oluoma Nnamaka, neither of whom has approached his potential. Harris is a fine athlete with a physique made for banging, but he drifts sometimes. Nnamaka has the skills to be an all-league player but isn't assertive enough.

BACKCOURT: One of the C-USA's best players last year, Brian Wardle makes shots under pressure but still needs help getting open. Point guard Cordell Henry averaged 17 points and 4.7 assists in the final three games, which is the kind of ball Marquette needs him to play on a regular basis. Henry is undersized but can be a pain for opponents when using his quickness.

KEY NEWCOMER: Merritt "blew up" in the spring of his junior season, and coach Tom Crean had to fight to make him the centerpiece of his first recruiting class. Merritt averaged 16.2 points and 11.2 rebounds and likely will start early in the season.

STRATEGY: Marquette runs about the same sophisticated offense as national champion Michigan State, but for it to work best there have to be more threats on the floor and better execution. Basing the offense entirely on Wardle's skills won't carry the Golden Eagles forward. They need more from Nnamaka and the center spot to make a significant move.

DATA Golden Eagles

Coach: Tom Crean (15-14, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 15-14. C-USA American: 8-8/4th. Lost to Xavier in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1994 (Great Midwest).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Milwaukee.

Website: www.gomarquette.com

Home court: Bradley Center (19,150); U.S. Cellular Arena (8,946).

*1999-2000 starter

Highlighted names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Baron Barone	6-0/160	Sr.	2.0	1.4	2.0	31.6	60.0	31.8
2	G/F	Odarte Blankson	6-6/205	Fr.	Ranked No. 100 by Bob Gibbons.					
55	C	Greg Clausen	6-11/260 Sr.		1.7	2.2	0.1	45.5	35.3	—
33	G	David Diggs	6-4/215	Jr.	1.9	1.3	0.5	27.8	66.7	22.5
34	F	Jon Harris	6-7/225	Jr.	3.6	6.5	0.6	54.1	25.5	—
10	G	Cordell Henry*	5-10/160 Jr.		9.1	2.6	3.2	35.7	80.0	31.2
5	C	Scott Merritt	6-10/235 Fr.		His ability to score inside should fill gaps.					
35	C	John Mueller*	6-10/240 Sr.		4.4	4.7	0.4	49.5	65.0	—
43	F	Oluoma Nnamaka*	6-7/218	Jr.	8.5	6.7	1.1	49.7	63.3	35.3
40	F	Terry Sanders	6-7/205	Fr.	Ranked by Hoopscoop as No. 7 postgrad.					
22	G	Brian Wardle*	6-5/205	Sr.	16.6	4.6	2.2	44.5	78.3	40.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	John Cliff*	6-2/210	14.6	3.8	1.8	69.8	40.7	37.6
F	John Polonowski	6-8/235	2.5	1.4	2.0	31.6	60.0	0.0

Schedule

N17 at South Alabama*	D23 Wisconsin	J27 Tulane	F24 Louisville
N20 Massachusetts	D30 at Dayton	J30 Southern Miss	F28 at Houston
N26 at Xavier	J6 at DePaul	F3 at Memphis	M3 at UNC Charlotte
D1-2 Coca Cola Classic	J10 Cincinnati	F8 at Louisville	*Preseason NIT
D7 Minnesota	J13 at North Carolina	F10 St. Louis	
D9 Ark.-Little Rock	J17 South Florida	F14 at UAB	
D20 Western Carolina	J20 UNC Charlotte	F18 at Cincinnati	
	J24 at St. Louis	F22 DePaul	

5. Louisville

NATIONAL RANK

65

FRONTCOURT: Uh, what frontcourt? There's little left to rebuild that segment of the team. Although nothing is particularly wrong with Ellis Myles or small forward Luke Whitehead, there's no room for error. If they're not productive from the start,

Louisville has nowhere to turn. Myles is intense and competitive but will have to make a quick adjustment to competing full time against bigger players. Whitehead is the one wing consistently capable of driving the ball into the defense. In the middle, Muhamed Lasege hasn't played competitively in nearly two years except with the Nigerian junior team.

BACKCOURT: This may be the ultimate guard's team. PG Reece Gaines and SG Marques Maybin will do the ballhandling and take plenty of shots. Gaines has improved his playmaking, but there are fewer options for his passes. So Gaines must be better as a long-range shooter. The team no longer can get by on Maybin's sub-.300 3-point percentage—there's no one to spell him. The team hopes to deepen its rotation by adding guard Erik Brown, who is establishing eligibility, at the semester break.

KEY NEWCOMER: The process of clearing Lasege for NCAA competition has lasted longer than some guys' careers, but if he is a legitimate center, the team can avoid being overwhelmed inside. Lasege ought to be able to quickly grasp the offense.

STRATEGY: The team uses its high-post offense to create quality shots. It usually works well, but the question is whether such an inexperienced team can run it fluidly. This team probably will reside at the division's bottom. It's just hard to imagine Denny Crum falling that far.

Cardinals

Coach: Denny Crum (663-276, 29 years; 42-23 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1980 and '86).

1999-2000 record: 19-12. C-USA American: 10-6/2nd. Lost to Gonzaga in NCAA West first round.

Last league title: 1994 (Metro).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Louisville.

Website: www.uoflports.com

Home court: Freedom Hall (18,865).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
0	G	Rashad Brooks	6-1/205	Sr.	2.7	1.0	0.7	43.9	50.0	31.4
21	F	Daouda Cisse	6-8/215	Fr.	Soccer player turned scoring threat.					
22	G	Reece Gaines*	6-6/185	So.	9.1	3.3	3.4	44.5	76.7	31.1
32	C	Muhamed Lasege	6-11/225	Fr.	Draws comparison to Hakeem Olajuwon.					
5	G	Marques Maybin*	6-3/185	Sr.	14.7	2.7	1.9	49.4	75.5	24.1
2	F	Ellis Myles	6-8/240	Fr.	Averaged 24 ppg with 34-point high.					
15	F	Simeon Naydenov	6-7/200	Fr.	Top 20 player at Nike European camp.					
55	F/C	Joseph N'Sima	6-8/215	Jr.	Set HS shot-blocking record with 108.					
4	F	Haji Turner	6-8/220	Jr.	1.0	0.6	0.2	28.6	40.0	—
24	F	Luke Whitehead	6-7/215	Fr.	Three-year starter with 24 ppg senior year.					
1	F	Mac Wilkinson	6-8/235	Fr.	47 percent 3-point shooter in HS.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Quintin Bailey	6-3/190	Suspended for 2000-2001 season.					
C/F	Dion Edward*	6-9/235	5.5	7.4	1.7	49.6	56.4	0.0
F	Nate Johnson*	6-6/215	13.9	5.4	3.1	47.7	69.2	45.1
F	Tony Williams*	6-7/210	13.6	6.2	2.9	42.9	71.4	34.8

Schedule

N18 at Hawaii	D21 Murray State	J21 at Southern Miss.	F17 at Utah
N20-22 Maui Invitational	D23 Dayton	J24 at Cincinnati	F21 at UNC Charlotte
N30 at Alabama	D30 Oregon	J27 DePaul	F27 UAB
D5 Georgetown	J2 Kentucky	J31 at South Florida	M3 Memphis
D9 Western Kentucky	J6 at St. Louis	F3 St. Louis	
D16 at South Alabama	J10 at Tulane	F8 Marquette	
D18 Loyola of Chicago	J13 Cincinnati	F11 UNC Charlotte	
	J17 Houston	F14 at DePaul	

6. Saint Louis

NATIONAL RANK

67

FRONTCOURT: You can see the improvement in center Chris Heinrich, but power forward Matt Baniak will need to hustle to avoid losing his minutes to Chris Braun. Baniak never has made the best of his ability—great hands, solid low-post moves. Braun

is unorthodox but brings energy and long-range shooting that could help compensate for the loss of Justin Love. Inconsistent Justin Tatum is the most aggressive Billiken when he's paying attention. Heinrich lacks polish but is a space-eater. Small forward Maurice Jeffers handles his defensive responsibilities ably and is likely to be pushed for minutes by freshman Floyd McClain, who is likely to be more assertive with the ball.

BACKCOURT: Marque Perry's recovery from an ankle injury is essential to the Billikens' ballhandling. His lack of shooting touch hurt him as a freshman, but experience should make him a smoother playmaker and more comfortable controlling the offense. Shooting guard is a glaring concern. The candidates are rookies or close to it: Sophomores Drew Diener and Josh Fisher have scored a combined seven points, and Chris Sloan, Jason Edwin and McClain are freshmen. None is a proven scorer.

KEY NEWCOMER: Edwin may be the most skilled of three first-year wings, which gives him the best chance to help fill the immediate need at shooting guard. However, he didn't play his senior season in high school because of a residency dispute.

STRATEGY: Coach Lorenzo Romar likely will spend one more year asking the team to wrestle for defensive position before playing the electric style he favors. Hog-tying opponents will be more important this year because scoring will be a challenge.

Billikens

Coach: Lorenzo Romar (19-14, 1 year; 61-58 overall, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-14. C-USA American: 7-9/T5th. Lost to Utah in NCAA Midwest first round.

Last league title: None.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: St. Louis.

Website: www.slubillikens.com

Home court: Kiel Center (20,000).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
30	F	Matt Baniak*	6-9/235	Sr.	5.5	3.6	0.7	54.6	75.0	0.0
52	F	Chris Braun	6-10/235	So.	3.1	2.9	0.2	37.5	73.1	45.5
21	G	Drew Diener	6-5/200	So.	0.6	0.4	0.0	10.0	100.0	11.1
44	G/F	Jason Edwin	6-5/205	Fr.	Sat out a year. Can play both guard spots.					
11	G	John Fisher	6-2/185	So.	Superb passer followed Romar to St. Louis.					
35	C	Chris Heinrich*	6-11/255	Sr.	5.8	4.5	0.3	41.4	63.3	0.0
31	G/F	Maurice Jeffers*	6-4/195	Sr.	6.6	4.3	1.7	42.1	60.5	25.7
14	F	Andrew Latimer	6-9/220	So.	2.1	1.5	0.1	25.9	63.2	28.6
20	G/F	Floyd McClain	6-4/190	Fr.	Romar sees him as the ultimate slasher.					
5	G	Marque Perry*	6-1/175	So.	6.0	1.1	2.0	46.4	68.8	9.5
33	G/F	Chris Sloan	6-7/205	Fr.	A good ballhandler, he can hit the 3.					
40	F	Justin Tatum	6-7/235	Fr.	8.3	6.0	1.1	46.3	52.9	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Dave Fergerson	6-0/175	6.5	2.1	2.2	44.0	78.8	32.1
G	Justin Love*	6-2/210	18.2	4.9	2.5	43.8	82.1	42.5
G	John Redden	6-1/190	2.9	1.4	1.5	30.4	62.5	39.6
G/F	Troy Robertson	6-4/190	2.8	1.2	1.0	39.5	62.5	39.6

Schedule

N18 Illinois-Chicago	D23 SW Missouri St.	J24 Marquette	F21 at Cincinnati
N21 at SIU Carbondale	D27-30 Rainbow Classic	J31 at DePaul	F25 UNC Charlotte
N25 East Carolina	J3 St. Bonaventure	F3 at Louisville	F28 Tulane
N29 California	J6 Louisville	F7 Cincinnati	M3 at UAB
D2 Idaho	J13 at UNC Charlotte	F10 at Marquette	
D5 at Washington	J18 at Memphis	F14 South Florida	
D9 at Missouri	J20 DePaul	F17 Southern Miss.	
		F19 at Houston	

1. Memphis

NATIONAL RANK

47

FRONTCOURT: The combination of Kelly Wise and John Calipari ought to be imposing to C-USA opponents. Wise has the physical tools to be great. He needs to be more forceful with the ball inside and to be more aggressive challenging shots, but those are likely to come with a bit of time playing for Calipari. Wise also will get a better practice challenge from freshman Modibo Diarra, who may be good enough to start at power forward. The other options at that position are diverse and dubious: Shannon Forman is tough enough but small at 6-5; 6-11 Earl Barron needs to mature physically; and Paris London has to relearn how to play after falling completely out of shape. Junior college product John Grice is virtually unchallenged at small forward. He's the shooter Memphis often has lacked.

BACKCOURT: The point guard job goes automatically to Courtney Trask, which is a good thing. He can make all-league and needs only more muscle and a mean streak to be a potential pro. He won't have much help in the backcourt. Shyrone Chatman is limited, Marcus Moody is softer than he is gifted and freshman Scooter McFadgon is athletic but undeveloped.

KEY NEWCOMER: Grice. The team has been painfully short on wings, especially wings who can shoot. Memphis courted Darius Rice but is better off for having landed Grice, who is hungrier.

STRATEGY: Calipari stresses halfcourt defense and post play. He's got teaching to do at one end, but Wise gives him a legitimate inside target around whom he can build an attack. The expectations here may exceed the possibilities, but then Calipari has conditioned basketball fans to expect miracles.

DATA

Tigers

Coach: John Calipari (first year; 193-71 overall, 8 years; 11-5 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-16. C-USA National: 7-9/T3rd.

Last league title: 1998 (National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Memphis.

Website: www.gotigersgo.com

Home court: The Pyramid (20,142).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
30	C	Earl Barron*	6-11/215	So.	5.6	3.9	0.8	43.0	54.8	0.0
15	G	Shyrone Chatman	6-4/209	Sr.	4.4	2.4	1.5	38.7	67.6	28.9
	C	Modibo Diarra	6-9/235	Fr.	Averaging 5 bpg, among the best in class.					
40	F	Shannon Forman*	6-5/219	Sr.	7.2	4.7	1.5	44.0	59.7	47.2
	F	John Grice	6-5/205	Jr.	JC All-American with 17 ppg average.					
55	F/C	Shamel Jones	6-9/220	Sr.	6.2	3.8	0.8	44.4	61.3	0.0
14	F	Paris London	6-8/240	Jr.	4.6	3.3	0.5	38.4	65.1	16.7
	G	Scooter McFadgon	6-5/190	Fr.	Shot 90 percent from free-throw line.					
32	G	Marcus Moody*	6-5/185	Sr.	10.8	2.8	2.4	36.5	73.1	31.2
5	G	Courtney Trask*	6-3/174	So.	9.4	2.7	4.6	39.0	77.7	40.2
45	F	Kelly Wise*	6-10/213	Jr.	14.5	8.6	0.7	56.1	58.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Keiron Shine	5-10/165	8.6	1.2	1.4	36.8	76.7	34.9

Schedule

N17 Temple	D18 Christian Brothers	J20 Houston	F19 UAB
N23-25 Puerto Rico Sh.	D21 at Miami (Fla.)	J24 at Tulane	F25 South Florida
N29 UT-Martin	D27 Southern Miss.	J27 at UAB	F28 at Southern Miss.
D2 at Arkansas	D30 Kansas State	F3 Marquette	M2 at Louisville
D5 at Tennessee	J3 Howard	F7 at South Florida	
D9 Mississippi	J6 at Houston	F10 Tulane	
D14 Arkansas State	J13 at DePaul	F15 Cincinnati	
	J18 St. Louis	F17 at UNC Charlotte	

2. South Florida

NATIONAL RANK

57

FRONTCOURT: The points come mostly from Altron Jackson and B.B. Waldon, but the team can't live without Chonsey Asbury. After his late-season injury, the Bulls lost five of their last six and missed an NCAA bid. Asbury is coach Seth Greenberg's most

reliable player, toughest defender and an essential playmaker, though he averages only 6 points. Jackson comes off the bench but is the league's most dangerous offensive player and will improve as his shooting range expands. There's no easy answer at center. The options are JC transfer Mike Bernard, freshman Terrence Leather or redshirt Gerrick Morris, but that can be managed if Greenberg can get Waldon, who can be an overwhelming scorer inside, to be more of a factor on defense.

BACKCOURT: Point guard Reggie Kohn is the conference's most creative passer—whether his teammates are watching or not. As he becomes more selective, he could lead the league in assists. Kohn and shooting guard Cedric Smith make an odd pair, but Smith's toughness helps overcome Kohn's liabilities.

KEY NEWCOMER: Although he was not highly rated by analysts, Leather has Greenberg excited about his potential. Leather has long arms and excellent hands but needs to gain muscle. The Bulls may need him now.

STRATEGY: Jackson and Waldon dominate the operation, but this isn't the rugged defensive team Greenberg would like. The Bulls need to score to win—they were 12-3 when they topped 75 points last year. But to get to the NCAAAs, they will have to hold opponents to something lower than the .430 shooting percentage of a year ago and push the pace consistently.

DATA

Bulls

Coach: Seth Greenberg (56-60, 4 years; 161-130 overall, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 17-14. C-USA National: 8-8/T1st. Lost to New Mexico in NIT first round.

Last league title: 2000 (tie, National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Tampa, Fla.

Website: www.gousfbulls.com

Home court: Sun Dome (10,411).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
10	F	Chonsey Asbury*	6-6/200	Sr.	6.0	3.7	2.1	40.7	56.3	0.0
	G/F	Jimmy Baxter	6-5/185	Fr.	Champion high jumper as well as shooter.					
	C	Mike Bernard	6-10/270	Jr.	JC transfer will pick up pieces after Johnson.					
	G	Deon Green	6-3/195	Jr.	Transfer from L.A. fills holes left at point.					
11	F	Altron Jackson	6-6/180	Jr.	18.2	4.6	1.8	51.8	63.0	39.0
35	G	Reggie Kohn*	6-1/165	So.	7.6	2.2	3.8	38.7	73.7	38.4
	F	Terrence Leather	6-9/201	Fr.	Averaged 27 ppg, 9.6 rpg as a HS senior.					
45	C	Will McDonald	6-11/240	So.	2.2	1.0	0.5	54.5	88.9	—
20	F	Gerrick Morris	6-9/210	Fr.	Redshirted last year, he adds bench depth.					
5	F	Artha Reeves	6-7/210	Sr.	6.1	4.4	0.8	51.6	66.0	0.0
2	F	Sam Sanders	6-4/215	Sr.	1.7	1.5	0.9	54.8	61.5	—
4	F	Cedric Smith*	6-4/220	Sr.	9.8	6.6	3.7	42.1	63.4	40.0
14	F	B.B. Waldon*	6-8/210	Jr.	17.3	7.9	1.8	50.6	55.1	38.1

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Scott Johnson*	6-10/250	8.7	4.1	1.5	41.3	83.1	34.6
G	Marlon Dawson		Transferred					

Schedule

N16-19 Top of World Cls.	D30 at Wisconsin	J31 Louisville	M1 Cincinnati
N28 George Washington	J6 Southern Miss	F3 at Tulane	M3 at Southern Miss
D7 at Florida State	J10 at UNC Charlotte	F7 Memphis	*Tampa, Fla.
D9 Texas*	J13 Tulane	F10 UAB	
D15 Central Florida	J17 at Marquette	F14 at Saint Louis	
D17 at Illinois-Chicago	J20 at California	F17 Houston	
D21-22 USF Shootout	J25 DePaul	F21 at UAB	
	J27 at Houston	F25 at Memphis	

3. Southern Mississippi

NATIONAL RANK

75

FRONTCOURT: The return of Vandarel Jones, who did not qualify for freshman eligibility but gained a fourth year by graduating on time, may have saved the season. He isn't a force inside but is a sturdy baseline presence. With Jones and Carl Henderson

up front, the team can continue playing strong defense. David Wall, who may be the most difficult player in the league to stop, has an astonishing first step and is a capable 3-point shooter. Expect him to lead the league in scoring.

BACKCOURT: There is nothing beautiful about point guard Mel Cauthen's game, not even a statistic that makes him stand out. But he's the only one left to run things. He can't hurt an opponent with his jump shot, which is true of every USM player save for Wall. But Cauthen knows what coach James Green expects and he defends his position well despite size limitations. The offense will need to be reconfigured now that Green can't use a two-point combo, and sophomores Marcus Terrell and Tobias Brinkley will get an early opportunity. Whoever makes shots on a full-time basis could have himself a job, though that player would have a tough time holding off JC recruit Elvin Mims.

KEY NEWCOMERS: The team stole Wall last season and might have pulled off another coup with Mims, who can play either wing spot and can help spread the scoring load.

STRATEGY: The team won't block as many shots now that Carlos Booker is gone, but it could be more sound at that end and can make up for lost intimidation by being more diverse and productive on offense. The key will be establishing a scoring threat aside from Wall.

Golden Eagles

Coach: James Green (65-54, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 17-12. C-USA National: 7-9/T2nd.

Last league title: 1991 (Metro).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.

Website: www.athletics.usm.edu

Home court: Reed Green Coliseum (8,095).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
31	G	Tobias Brinkley	6-4/175	So.	4.2	1.7	0.5	48.1	63.6	36.0
34	G	Clement Carter	6-5/220	Fr.	Averaged 18 ppg, 7 rpg, 2 spg in HS.					
45	F	Marlon Carter	6-6/215	Jr.	1.0	0.8	0.2	11.1	80.0	0.0
20	G	Mel Cauthen*	6-0/175	Sr.	8.0	2.8	2.7	40.0	78.7	32.3
	G/F	Bernard Duncan	6-4/190	Jr.	Averaged 19.8 ppg, 5.3 rpg in high school.					
43	F	Carl Henderson	6-8/230	Sr.	4.9	2.4	0.2	47.8	68.0	—
32	C	Vandarel Jones	6-9/230	Sr.	9.9	6.0	0.4	67.2	62.0	0.0
	G/F	Elvin Mims	6-5/205	Jr.	Adds scoring option at either wing spot.					
21	G	Mario Myles	6-5/190	So.	1.7	1.6	0.7	28.9	58.3	14.3
42	C	Michael Palmer	6-9/225	Fr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—
	G	Brad Richardson	6-1/185	Jr.	JC transfer averaged 14.5 ppg, 7 apg.					
14	G	Marcus Terrell	6-2/180	So.	4.5	0.9	0.8	42.0	82.1	40.9
25	F	Kilavorus Thompson*	6-7/220	Sr.	6.2	4.8	1.1	43.0	78.9	31.7
30	F	David Wall*	6-5/225	Sr.	17.0	4.2	1.0	40.1	76.0	36.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Carlos Booker*	6-11/210	6.3	6.0	0.6	39.5	62.5	75.0
G	Earl Flowers*	6-1/175	5.4	2.2	3.6	31.5	64.8	19.5

Schedule

N17 Louisiana Tech*	D5 Jackson State	J13 at UAB	F14 at Houston
N18 Arkansas or Tenn. St.*	D9 at New Orleans	J21 Louisville	F17 at Saint Louis
N21 Alcorn State	D16 Arkansas State	J24 Houston	F24 Tulane
N25 Louisiana-Lafayette	D19 Arkansas Tech	J27 at Charlotte	F28 Memphis
N28 South Alabama	D27 at Memphis	J30 at Marquette	M3 South Florida
D1 Western Illinois**	D30 at Auburn	F3 UAB	*at Fayetteville, Ark.
D2 Iowa St. or Southern	J6 at South Florida	F7 at Tulane	**at Ames, Iowa
	J10 DePaul	F10 Cincinnati	

4. UAB

NATIONAL RANK

111

FRONTCOURT: Eric Batchelor handles the ball well enough to clear himself to shoot and shoots well enough to have averaged 22 points as a JC sophomore. He tends to be extremely streaky, but Batchelor complements the hard-driving style of senior Myron

Ransom. The problem is with size. JC recruit Will Campbell is a wide-bodied 6-8, but otherwise coach Murry Bartow is left to squeeze minutes out of awkward Igor Nikolic or to sacrifice size and hope battlers like Ransom and 6-5 David Walker can get by.

BACKCOURT: The Blazers are unlikely to block a whole lot more than the 86 shots they knocked down last year, which means the defense will have to start here. That's one thing LeAndrew Bass does well. He has never been a great playmaker, but if he can slow opponents at the point of attack, he might hold off a challenge from Morris Finley. Finley is quick and more of a threat to hit the perimeter shot. The shooting guard spot will belong immediately to JC recruit George Arnold.

KEY NEWCOMER: The team desperately wants Arnold to be a creative scorer after being forced to turn over so much of last year's operation to wild man Eric Holmes. Arnold averaged 22.7 points in junior college and should be ready to start upon arrival.

STRATEGY: Without great shooters or a post game, the Blazers saw little choice last season but to become a one-on-one offensive team that concentrated on driving the ball. With players like Arnold, Batchelor and Bass, they will be able to run more of a motion offense. They've played a lot of zone in recent seasons that hasn't worked well, but that could be a sound tactic with a quicker group that can avoid blackout problems.

Blazers

Coach: Murry Bartow (73-52, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 14-14. C-USA National: 7-9/T3rd.

Last league title: 1999 (National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Birmingham, Ala.

Website: www.blazers.uab.edu

Home court: Bartow Arena (8,500).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
15	G	Bill Armstrong	6-1/185	Sr.	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0
	G	George Arnold	6-5/205	Jr.	With 22.7 ppg JC average, he'll start quickly.					
32	G/F	Sidney Ball	6-5/185	So.	1.2	2.2	0.3	27.3	68.4	18.2
4	G	LeAndrew Bass*	6-3/185	Sr.	8.9	3.5	3.3	46.6	64.9	22.2
	F	Eric Batchelor	6-7/210	Jr.	Will add to wing scoring, but he's streaky.					
	F	Will Campbell	6-8/240	Jr.	Led junior college conference in rebounding					
12	G	Morris Finley	5-11/165	So.	6.3	1.6	1.2	35.2	68.4	27.2
	C	Tom Frericks	6-9/250	Fr.	Led Kentucky preps at 64% for field goals.					
21	G/F	Tony Johnson	6-4/170	So.	1.6	2.1	1.3	38.8	54.5	0.0
50	C	Igor Nikolic	7-1/240	Sr.	5.0	3.6	0.7	40.6	64.7	42.3
13	F	Myron Ransom*	6-5/220	Sr.	11.4	5.9	1.7	41.7	60.0	31.7
11	F	David Walker*	6-5/205	Sr.	8.2	7.0	0.9	53.3	46.7	100.0
	G	Asa Woods	6-5/185	Fr.	Averaged 17.4 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 4 apg in HS.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Eric Holmes*	6-3/185	16.6	2.1	1.6	37.4	78.5	33.9
G/F	Torrey Ward*	6-3/210	9.4	5.8	1.6	42.9	67.6	20.7

Schedule

N21 Alabama A&M	D22 Georgia State*	J17 at Cincinnati	F14 Marquette
N25 La Salle	D23 Hawaii*	J20 at Tulane	F19 at Memphis
N29 at Texas Tech	D30 Va. Commonwealth	J24 Charlotte	F21 South Florida
D8 Murray State	J3 Alcorn State	J27 Memphis	F24 at DePaul
D13 Chattanooga	J7 Tulane	J31 Houston	F27 at Louisville
D16 at Fresno State	J10 at Houston	F3 at Southern Miss.	M3 Saint Louis
	J13 Southern Miss.	F10 at South Florida	*at Honolulu
		F12 Centenary	

5. Houston

NATIONAL RANK

160

FRONTCOURT: What forward George Williams got last year, he mostly got for himself by pounding the offensive boards or wrestling into the clear for a baseline jumper. Having Alton Ford as a frontcourt partner can only help. The defensive attention that Ford demands no longer will be focused on Williams. Ford has a massive body and sound skills. He remains a huge recruit for the Cougars but has not been as interested the past couple years in dominating opponents. The Cougars would like for him to regain that hunger. The departure of Kenny Younger, who averaged double-figure scoring, may make it tough for new coach Ray McCallum to develop a rotation inside.

BACKCOURT: Dominic Smith played the point in junior college, and Bernard Smith has done it at Texas and Houston with little success. This is the ingredient that likely will hold Houston back. It's only a shade better at shooting guard, with Chad Hendrick and JC recruit Justin Lyman. The Cougars will lack the perimeter shooting and playmaking ability to break down defenses.

KEY NEWCOMER: Ford has a body that reminds some folks of Karl Malone, but he doesn't run as hard or play with the same intensity on a regular basis. When Ford is playing well, he clears space in the lane and overwhelms opponents with his one-handed jumper. Ford is a short-range marksman whose best work is done facing the basket.

STRATEGY: At least with McCallum in charge, there will be some. He made two NCAA Tournaments at Ball State by encouraging players to exploit their greatest assets. Expect McCallum to design an attack that makes full use of Ford and Williams.

DATA

Cougars

Coach: Ray McCallum (first year; 126-74 overall, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 9-22. C-USA National: 2-14/6th.

Last league title: 1992 (tie, Southwest).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Houston.

Website: www.uhcougars.com

Home court: Hofheinz Pavillion (8,749).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Chris Booker	6-10/205	Fr.	Led HS team with 23.9 ppg and 7.6 bpg.					
11	G	Torrence Botts	6-1/195	Jr.	4.0	1.3	0.9	36.0	70.6	31.3
35	G	Treva Crosby	6-1/170	Jr.	Part-time starter before shoulder injury.					
4	F	Alton Ford	6-9/265	Fr.	All-American, Texas HS player of the year.					
32	G/F	Chad Hendrick*	6-5/210	Sr.	8.5	2.8	1.6	42.6	69.0	36.0
45	F/C	Tega Moceanu	6-8/235	Jr.	3.0	1.2	0.4	50.0	60.6	68.8
24	F	Willie Moore	6-5/200	Sr.	Texas Class 5A player of the year.					
23	G	Calvin Murphy	5-8/190	Sr.	1.5	0.9	0.6	27.8	37.5	23.1
43	F	Patrick Okafor	6-8/235	Jr.	Averaged 19 ppg, 12 rpg in junior college.					
3	G	Marcus Oliver	6-3/180	So.	5.3	2.2	0.4	29.9	73.6	21.0
21	G	Bernard Smith*	6-3/180	Jr.	3.6	3.0	2.3	43.3	42.9	23.1
1	G	Dominic Smith	5-10/175	Jr.	Led JC to semis with all-tournament honors.					
42	F	George Williams*	6-8/215	So.	14.3	8.5	1.6	51.6	61.8	41.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Gee Gervin*	6-2/165	18.0	3.6	3.1	42.7	81.1	35.7
F	Kenny Younger*	6-9/215	13.5	7.5	1.5	42.7	81.1	35.7

Schedule

N16-17 BCA Classic	D20 Texas	J24 at Southern Miss.	F21 at Tulane
N21 at Rice	D23 Texas Southern	J27 South Florida	F24 at Cincinnati
N25 Southwest Texas St.	D27-28 Sun. Carn. Cls.	J31 at UAB	F28 Marquette
N28 LSU	D31 Georgetown	F4 UNC Charlotte	M3 Tulane
N30 at Connecticut	J6 Memphis	F7 at DePaul	
D4 Louisiana-Monroe	J10 UAB	F14 Southern Miss.	
D17 at SMU	J17 at Louisville	F17 at South Florida	
	J20 at Memphis	F19 St. Louis	

6. Tulane

NATIONAL RANK

165

FRONTCOURT: Ledaryl Billingsley, whose time was limited last season, will have to make the most of a full-timer's minutes now, as he's the one proven player left up front. He needs to use his muscle more on the boards, but he chooses his shots well. New

coach Shawn Finney is not loaded with options. George Brown and Ivan Pjevcevic, both 6-10, may not be ready. Linton Johnson has played two years without making a significant impression, and Brandon Brown couldn't crack the rotation as a freshman. This team will, by necessity, emphasize speed and agility, with Wayne Tinsley and David Hawkins getting chances to contribute as freshmen. Tinsley is a spectacular athlete who could make a splash. If he doesn't, Tulane will be in deep trouble.

BACKCOURT: Although Waitari Marsh is strong and reasonably creative, he has not improved as a shooter or decision-maker. If he doesn't get going, he may be pushed by 6-4 freshman Sherod Teasley. The possibilities are slimmer at shooting guard. Sophomore Brandon Spann has struggled with his shooting, and his size (6-1) on the wing could cause problems defensively. If Tinsley succeeds, Hawkins will get more backcourt minutes.

KEY NEWCOMER: At the adidas ABCD Camp before his senior year, Tinsley was as active as any wing and dominated the All-Star game. Some doubt that will translate to Division I production. But the hope that he'll deliver is about all Tulane has.

STRATEGY: Expect an emphasis on defense and inside-out offense. The Green Wave is not likely to be shy about 3-pointers. However, the team of undersized players will probably have to use more backcourt pressure and attack off turnovers.

DATA

Green Wave

Coach: Shawn Finney (first year).

1999-2000 record: 20-11. C-USA National: 8-8/T1st. Lost to North Carolina State in NIT first round.

Last league title: 2000 (tie, National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: New Orleans.

Website: www.tulanegreenwave.com

Home court: Fogelman Arena (3,600); New Orleans Sports Arena (17,832).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	F	Ledaryl Billingsley	6-7/250	Jr.	9.4	5.4	0.5	48.2	44.4	0.0
5	F	Brandon Brown	6-8/220	So.	1.1	0.9	0.0	40.0	62.5	—
	G	George Brown	6-10/235	Fr.	Won multiple honors at two high schools.					
	C	David Hawkins	6-4/205	Fr.	Had 23 pts. in World Tournament title game.					
13	F	Linton Johnson	6-8/195	Jr.	2.8	3.2	0.4	48.5	64.5	20.0
3	G	Waitari Marsh*	6-2/195	Jr.	8.0	3.7	4.3	39.2	65.8	25.0
	C	Ivan Pjevcevic	6-10/220	Fr.	Hard worker who shines in the post.					
12	G	Brandon Spann	6-1/185	So.	3.1	1.0	0.8	35.0	73.9	26.8
	G	Sherod Teasley	6-4/210	Fr.	A floor leader who can score and pass.					
	G/F	Wayne Tinsley	6-5/218	Fr.	All New-England and ABCD camp all-star.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Sterling Davis*	6-7/240	13.4	4.8	0.9	46.1	72.0	30.2
F	Trello Galloway*	6-7/220	3.8	3.4	1.1	47.1	34.3	33.3
F/C	Morris Jordan*	6-10/235	9.9	5.5	0.5	44.0	58.7	18.2
G	Wade Mason	6-2/185	4.1	1.3	1.7	39.0	48.5	29.1
G	Marlo Miles	6-1/195	3.3	2.2	2.1	28.7	54.0	26.8
G	Dylan Osean*	6-4/195	10.5	2.6	2.0	44.5	88.9	40.7

Schedule

N17 Nicholls State	D21 at New Orleans	J17 at Mississippi St.	F14 Charlotte
N20 Virginia Commonwealth	D28 Florida*	J20 UAB	F17 DePaul
N24-26 Big Island Invit.	D30 Southern	J24 Memphis	F21 Houston
D2 at Southern	J3 Lamar	J27 at Marquette	F24 at Southern Miss.
D4 at Methodist	J7 at UAB	J29 at Cincinnati	F28 at Saint Louis
D5 Prairie View A&M	J8 Centenary	F3 South Florida	M3 at Houston
	J10 Louisville	F7 Southern Miss.	*Nokia Sugar Bowl
	J13 at South Florida	F10 at Memphis	

CONFERENCE USA

Mountain West

ASCENDING: Brigham Young and San Diego State. The Cougars proved last year they are headed in the right direction as Terrell Lyday and Mekeli Wesley led the way to the NIT quarterfinals. With 17 players in the program, coach Steve Cleveland can be a little more selective about who gets playing time. The competition from within makes BYU better. Lyday will give the offense plenty of spark and can make defenders look mighty silly, and Matt Montague will surprise many. Cleveland's

goal since taking over three years ago has been to bring respectability back to the program. He will accomplish that with this squad, which is expected by fans to make the NCAA tourney. As for San Diego State, the cynics will say, "How could they be much worse after going 5-23?" That coach Steve Fisher managed to win five games is impressive. Now, after having had a year to recruit, he has landed some good players. There's enough talent that significant progress can be made. The Aztecs won't be the easy mark they were a year ago. Fisher's squad will be the most improved in the league.

DESCENDING: Colorado State. The Rams still are trying to replace guard Milt Palacio from two years ago, and they now have to fill the void left by Cedric Goodwyn's departure. Plus, there's still no inside threat, and losing coach Ritchie McKay to Oregon State hurt recruiting. Dale Layer, who replaced McKay, could use some size on the floor. In a league thick with big men, a lack of size is a serious issue. Layer came on board too late to do enough recruiting to make much difference. The Rams will have to rely on perimeter shooting, but that will take them only so far. Layer will have to do a lot of experimenting to figure out how his team works. That won't translate into many wins.

BY STEVE CARP

Las Vegas Sun

Predictions

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Utah * | 6. San Diego State |
| 2. UNLV* | 7. Colorado State |
| 3. Wyoming* | 8. Air Force |
| 4. Brigham Young | |
| 5. New Mexico | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Mountain West

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Josh Davis, Wyoming	6-8	235	Jr.
F	Wayland White, New Mexico	6-6	205	Sr.
C	Kaspars Kambala, UNLV	6-9	250	Sr.
G	Terrell Lyday, BYU	6-3	190	Sr.
G	Travis Spivey, Utah	6-2	200	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Mekeli Wesley, BYU	6-9	230	Sr.
F	Dalron Johnson, UNLV	6-9	205	So.
C	Ugo Udezue, Wyoming	6-8	245	Jr.
G	Jarvis Croff, Air Force	6-4	190	Sr.
G	Chris McMillian, Wyoming	5-10	180	Jr.

Player of the Year

Josh Davis, F, Wyoming

Newcomer of the Year

Travis Spivey, G, Utah

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Andy Birley, Colorado State
Best rebounder: Tom Bellairs, Air Force
Best playmaker: Chris McMillian, Wyoming
Best defender: Danny Brotherson, UNLV
Best leaper: Wayland White, New Mexico
Best player under 6-0: Chris McMillian, Wyoming
Best player over 6-10: Nate Althoff, Utah
Most versatile: Josh Davis, Wyoming
Most flamboyant: Terrell Lyday, BYU
Best NBA prospect: Wayland White, New Mexico



DESERT HEAT: Several blowout losses to top 25 teams and a first-round exit in the NCAA tourney haven't helped Bayno in his standing with UNLV fans.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Alex Jensen, Utah, and Mark Dickel, UNLV. Nobody in the league had Jensen's heart, desire and toughness, not to mention his smarts and ability. He was a true leader. Ditto for Dickel, who improved through hard work and determination. It may not affect the Utes or the Rebels when it's all

said and done, but going into the season, those two guys will be sorely missed.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Josh Davis, Wyoming. He went from small forward to power forward to center thanks to injuries to Ugo Udezue, and all Davis did was blossom. He was quicker than most centers, and with his shooting ability could score outside. He's a great competitor who figures to get his due. Opposing coaches know how good he is because when they talk about Wyoming, Davis' name is the first to come up.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Ron Grady, Colorado State. He was supposed to be a big-time scorer for the Rams after transferring from Oregon State. He failed to average double figures. The ironic thing is the guy who recruited him to Fort Collins, Ritchie McKay, is now the coach at Oregon State. Grady shot only 34 percent from 3-point range for a team that hit 44 percent of its tries from the arc. That's not a good sign.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Bill Bayno, UNLV. He may have been co-coach of the year in the Mountain West, but many UNLV fans aren't cutting him a lot of slack. Not after several blowout losses to top-25 teams and the first-round NCAA Tournament exit at the hands of Tulsa. Bayno is safe from the administration's standpoint, but anything less than an NCAA tourney bid and fans' gripes will get louder.

BEST BETS: You can count on New Mexico's Fran Fraschilla to speak his mind

and not care who hears him; Rick Majerus to bemoan that the conference has a post-season tourney; UNLV president Carol Harter to dole out pregame hugs and kisses to Rebels players and coaches at every game at the Thomas & Mack Center; everyone to mispronounce Wyoming center Ugo Udezue's last name, if not misspell it (for the record, it's pronounced OOH-des-OOH-way), and UNLV's Bayno to show up on time for the mandatory coaches' meeting during the conference's media day in Las Vegas in early October. He was late to last year's event and was suspended for a game by conference commissioner Craig Thompson.

ODDS AND ENDS: After going through its inaugural year without an automatic bid, the Mountain West tournament champion gets into the field of 65 for the 2001 NCAA Tournament. The conference tourney is March 8-10 in Las Vegas. ... Three Mountain West teams are coming off 20-plus-win seasons—UNLV (23-8), Utah (23-9) and BYU (22-11). ... Colorado State spent 11 days in August touring France and Switzerland, playing seven games against local club teams. ... Utah will bring a 52-game home unbeaten streak (the nation's longest) into the 2000-01 season. The last time the Utes lost at the Huntsman Center was December 31, 1996, to Wake Forest. ... In its inaugural season, the MWC ranked fourth in the nation in attendance, averaging 9,152 fans. Only the Big Ten, ACC and SEC attracted more fans per game.



Returning Leaders

Name	School	PPG
Kaspars Kambala	UNLV	18.5
Jarvis Croff	Air Force	17.3
Terrell Lyday	BYU	17.1
Mekeli Wesley	BYU	16.8
Trevor Diggs	UNLV	15.1

Name	School	RPG
Kaspars Kambala	UNLV	9.3
Tom Bellairs	Air Force	9.2
Josh Davis	Wyoming	8.7
Dalron Johnson	UNLV	6.9
Marcelo Correa	San Diego St.	6.4

Name	School	APG
Matt Montague	BYU	3.7
Chris McMillian	Wyoming	3.6
Marlon Parmer	New Mexico	3.5
Trevor Diggs	UNLV	3.2
Vernard Jenkins	Air Force	3.2

Name	School	FG%
Nate Althoff	Utah	60.1
Wayland White	New Mexico	54.6
Kaspars Kambala	Las Vegas	52.7
Dalron Johnson	UNLV	52.5
Tom Bellairs	Air Force	51.4

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
UNLV	10	4	23	8	18	2	5	6
Utah	10	4	23	9	17	0	6	9
New Mexico	9	5	18	14	13	7	5	7
Colorado State	8	6	18	12	10	3	8	9
Wyoming	8	6	19	12	12	1	7	11
Brigham Young	7	7	22	11	14	2	8	9
Air Force	4	10	8	20	6	7	2	13
San Diego State	0	14	5	23	5	10	0	13

Ranking the Recruiting

1. Utah: The Utes quickly rebuilt their backcourt with Travis Spivey and Kevin Bradley.
2. UNLV: Still need a center but Omari Pearson could be a sleeper in the Dalron Johnson mode at power forward.
3. Wyoming: Steve McClain didn't stand pat, and he has been rewarded with the signing of 6-8 F Joe Ries from St. Louis.
4. Brigham Young: Garner Meads, the forward/center everyone wanted, came to Provo ready to play as a freshman.
4. New Mexico: Fran Fraschilla went for a quick JC/D-1 transfer fix and netted a scorer in SG Ruben Douglas.
5. San Diego State: Vanderbilt transfer Deandre Moore, former Fresno State forward Randy Holcomb and JC swingman Curtis Washington should help the Aztecs escape the cellar in Year 2 of the Steve Fisher Era.
6. Colorado State: The Rams landed Matt Nelson, who blocked 195 shots as a high school senior. If he blocks half that many this year, he will be way ahead of the game.
8. Air Force: The Falcons bring in 12, including 6-6 swingmen Robert Todd and Joel Gerlach.



HIGH-FLYING FALCON: Jarvis Croff, who averaged 17.3 points last season, returns to Air Force's backcourt.



TRIPLE THREAT: Josh Davis, who averaged 8.7 rpg, can play three positions for Wyoming's fast-paced offense.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Wyoming	31	43.9	70.6	35.0	40.6	16.1	8.0	3.2	14.2	82.8
UNLV	31	45.5	68.1	31.6	42.0	20.1	8.4	4.4	15.9	82.2
New Mexico	32	45.5	71.0	33.8	36.0	11.3	7.2	4.5	14.5	72.6
BYU	33	46.1	69.6	37.3	33.8	14.4	7.1	2.2	13.7	70.5
Utah	32	48.2	71.9	38.7	33.7	15.5	6.2	2.8	14.4	70.4
Colorado State	30	47.7	70.3	44.0	30.8	14.3	6.4	4.4	14.2	70.2
Air Force	28	39.1	65.1	38.0	36.0	12.0	8.7	1.9	14.6	67.5
San Diego State	28	40.9	68.0	29.9	31.6	13.4	7.2	2.2	17.6	62.3

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Utah	32	42.8	71.9	36.3	28.9	15.9	6.2	2.8	13.4	61.8
BYU	33	39.7	69.6	29.6	35.2	13.7	7.2	2.2	15.3	63.8
Colorado State	30	43.0	70.3	33.1	32.1	14.3	7.2	4.4	14.3	64.1
New Mexico	28	45.5	71.0	31.4	36.1	11.3	7.3	4.5	14.7	68.3
Air Force	28	49.0	65.1	38.0	36.5	12.0	8.7	1.9	16.0	73.1
San Diego State	28	45.6	68.0	37.0	37.9	13.4	6.4	2.2	14.3	74.9
UNLV	31	42.9	68.1	32.2	38.0	20.1	8.5	4.5	17.5	75.0
Wyoming	31	43.2	70.6	35.3	38.6	16.1	8.0	3.3	16.4	77.5

1. Utah

NATIONAL RANK

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Schedule

N17 Idaho State
 N23-25 Puerto Rico Shootout
 D2 Southern California*
 D6 at Utah State
 D9 Weber State
 D16 Washington State
 D19 at Pepperdine
 D22 Southern Utah
 D26 Concordia
 D30 at Texas
 J3 Long Beach State
 J8 Wyoming
 J13 UNLV
 J15 San Diego State
 J20 at Wyoming
 J22 at Colorado State
 J29 at Brigham Young
 F3 Air Force
 F5 New Mexico
 F10 at San Diego State
 F12 at UNLV
 F17 Louisville
 F19 Colorado State
 F24 Brigham Young
 M1 at Air Force
 M3 at New Mexico
 *Anaheim, Calif.

FRONTCOURT: Nobody in the Mountain West is deeper than the Utes. Start with senior center Nate Althoff, who continues to make progress on the court despite having to deal with a bad back. He has developed excellent footwork, plays within his limitations and understands how to play in Rick Majerus' system. He is one of the most underrated players in the league. Although he may never reach the status of a Michael Doleac or a Hanno Mottola, Althoff will do enough things well to be a factor. His lone question mark is his durability. He averaged only 22 minutes last year. However, there's enough depth that if Althoff goes down, Utah can survive. Phil Cullen can score, rebound enough and make smart decisions. Mike Puzey developed a super-sub role last year, showing an ability to score inside and play good defense off the bench. Majerus loves his grit.

BACKCOURT: Recognize anyone? Didn't think so. That's because everyone's new. Travis Spivey transferred from Salt Lake Community College to play point guard. Kevin Bradley is another JC transfer. Nick Jacobson red-shirted last season. Trace Caton, like Britton Johnsen, was on a church mission. The lack of experience is of great concern. But remember, Spivey played at Georgia Tech and Caton has played at this level. Bradley is an excellent combo guard and gives the Utes some flexibility. And with the glut of size up front,

look for Britton Johnsen's brother Jeff to play more at the shooting guard spot than at small forward. The Utes will be quicker, more athletic and smarter despite the lack of experience, which is why Majerus isn't shedding many tears over losing Gary Colbert, who left the program after failing to meet Majerus' academic expectations, or Adam Sharp, who left after a broken ankle failed to heal properly.

KEY NEWCOMER: The return of Britton Johnsen is big. Chris Burgess was highly coveted coming out of high school. Spivey has immense talent. Bradley has the potential to explode offensively. But the key newcomer is Spivey. Utah never quite filled the void left by Andre Miller's departure, and Majerus has regretted it. Perhaps Spivey is the belated answer. No doubt he will be out to prove to his critics he's not a bad guy. If Spivey can handle the pressure that comes with playing for Majerus and perform at a high level, not only will he get the last laugh, but the Utes will be a very formidable foe in the postseason.

STRATEGY: Normally, Utah is considered a halfcourt, grind-it-out team. But with the return of Britton Johnsen and the recruitment of Spivey and Bradley, the Utes are suddenly a lot more athletic than they've been. A quicker backcourt should allow Spivey and Bradley to go one-on-one and try and beat their men to the bucket. Of course, Utah is still going to run people off screens, look to power it inside and establish a low-post presence. That will never change. But with more athletic players, Majerus can afford to try different things when the opportunities present themselves. It basically means a tough team to defend against just got tougher. The Utes remain the team to beat in the Mountain West and are worthy of preseason top-25 status. Assuming Britton Johnsen, Burgess and Caton return to form and Spivey and Bradley adjust to this level and can handle Majerus' tough-love coaching, the Utes are looking at a return to the Sweet 16.



TOM SMART / UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

MORE THAN SERVICEABLE: Although Althoff, Utah's lone returning starter, may never be considered an elite player, he did lead the league in field-goal percentage last season.

DATA Utes

Coach: Rick Majerus (261-73, 11 years; 360-125 overall, 16 years; 17-8 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-9. MWC: 10-4/T1st.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1992.

Site: Salt Lake City.

Website: www.UtahUtes.com

Home court: Jon M. Huntsman Center (15,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
52	C	Nate Althoff*	6-11/260	Sr.	9.5	4.7	.1	60.1	71.1	00.0
-	G	Kevin Bradley	6-0/175	Jr.	Averaged 18.5 ppg in JC last year.					
34	C/F	Chris Burgess	6-9/245	Jr.	Played two seasons for Duke.					
21	G/F	Trace Caton	6-4/215	So.	Returning from two-year mission					
40	F/C	Phil Cullen	6-9/215	Jr.	5.6	2.4	.8	39.3	69.0	36.5
15	F	Nick Jacobsen	6-3/185	Fr.	Minnesota Mr. Basketball finalist.					
31	F	Britton Johnsen	6-9/200	So.	McDonald's All-American returns from mission.					
35	G/F	Jeff Johnsen	6-4/200	Jr.	5.9	3.7	2.0	45.7	59.2	34.5
42	F	Mike Puzey	6-8/215	So.	2.5	2.6	.3	62.5	61.5	00.0
-	G	Travis Spivey	6-2/200	Jr.	Scenic West Conference JC player of the year.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Alex Jensen*	6-7/225	13.1	7.5	3.1	54.2	70.2	46.0
F	Hanno Mottola*	6-9/250	17.0	4.8	1.7	49.8	82.7	35.0
G/F	Tony Harvey*	6-5/200	9.6	2.8	2.6	43.1	73.6	36.8
G	Jeremy Killion*	5-11/190	9.1	1.9	1.7	46.5	72.5	38.4

2. UNLV

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: Kaspars Kambala has never looked better. He is leaner, stronger and more mature. Perhaps getting married over the summer had something to do with the latter. But the 6-9 center from Latvia will be the focus of the offense as the Rebels

attempt to win back-to-back conference titles. Dalron Johnson, the Mountain West's co-freshman of the year, averaged 13 points and led the team with 43 blocked shots. The 6-10 power forward can also shoot with range, drawing more defenders away from the basket and allowing Kambala to isolate down low. The question is lack of depth at center.

BACK COURT: Coach Bill Bayno is going to give true freshman LaFonte Johnson the ball and let him run the team. Johnson, a 5-10 point guard who was Omari Pearson's teammate at Crispus Attucks, has never played a minute of college ball, and he's coming off a broken right foot. Trevor Diggs averaged 15.1 points despite erratic shooting. Lou Kelly, Jermaine Lewis, Danny Brotherson and Donovan Stewart round out the backcourt.

KEY NEWCOMER: Somebody has to get all these talented players the ball, which means Johnson is vital. He was rehabbing his foot into August, and that kept him away from Las Vegas, where he could have gotten a head start on his college career by playing pickup ball in town with his new teammates.

STRATEGY: Last year, the commitment was to score early and often, and UNLV finished sixth in the nation in scoring. The plan this year is to build on that, turn Kelly and Lewis loose on the perimeter, get Kambala a lot of touches in the paint, have Diggs take quality shots and not shut Johnson out of the offense.

DATA

Rebels

Coach: Bill Bayno (91-60, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-8. MWC: 10-4/T1st.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Las Vegas.

Website: www.unlvrebels.com

Home court: Thomas & Mack Center (18,500).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Vince Booker	6-1/175	Jr.	0.4	0.3	.3	20.0	50.0	16.7
5	G	Danny Brotherson	6-4/200	Sr.	8.1	4.6	2.5	38.0	67.0	20.7
3	G	Trevor Diggs*	6-3/185	Sr.	15.1	1.6	3.2	35.0	74.3	33.0
13	F	Sylvester Dotson	6-7/220	Sr.	4.2	3.8	.5	55.1	44.4	00.0
10	F	Dalron Johnson*	6-9/205	So.	11.1	6.9	1.2	52.5	74.5	33.3
-	G	LaFonte Johnson	5-10/160	Fr.	Led high school team in scoring and assists.					
-	G	Jermaine Lewis	6-4/190	Jr.	Shooting guard played for Kilgore (Texas) JC.					
34	F/C	Kaspars Kambala*	6-9/250	Sr.	18.5	9.3	1.2	52.7	69.9	00.0
15	G/C	Lou Kelly	6-5/190	So.	2.0	2.0	0.5	11.1	50.0	00.0
20	F	Chris Richardson	6-6/185	Jr.	4.6	3.0	.5	59.5	67.6	45.5
14	F	Donavan Stewart*	6-4/210	Sr.	4.4	2.3	1.5	45.9	27.3	24.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Mark Dickel*	6-2/175	13.0	4.0	9.0	44.6	77.3	37.0
F	Issiah Epps	6-10/225	2.3	2.3	0.1	56.8	50.0	00.0

Schedule		D20 Chicago State		J22 New Mexico		F24 at San Diego State	
N17	Northern Arizona	D22	Pepperdine	J27	San Diego State	M1	Colorado State
N20-22	Maui Invitational	D28	Monmouth	F3	at Colorado State	M3	Wyoming
N25	Cal State Northridge	D30	Mississippi State	F5	at Wyoming		
D2	at Oklahoma State	J3	Loyola Marymount	F10	BYU		
D9	at Nevada	J8	Air Force	F12	Utah		
D16	Cincinnati	J13	at Utah	F17	at Air Force		
D18	Alaska	J15	at BYU	F19	at New Mexico		

3. Wyoming

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: The team has lots of athleticism and guys who play bigger than their size, starting with Josh Davis, a versatile junior who can play all three front-line spots. A player of the year candidate, he can score, rebound, defend and deliver in the clutch.

The big question is Ugo Udezue's comeback from knee surgery. His cousin, Uche Nsonwu-Amadi is 6-10 and redshirted last year. If his game resembles his cousin's, look out. Freshman Joe Ries or David Rottinghaus get the task of replacing LeDarion Jones.

BACK COURT: Chris McMillian continues to develop into an effective point guard. He has learned to play under control and should compete for all-conference honors. Who will step in at off-guard? Maybe junior Brett McFall. Or Scottie Vines. Or maybe McClain will go with Paris Corner, a redshirt last season after transferring from Iowa State.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Freshman Joe Ries could be a big-time player. Although there's no need to rush him into the starting lineup, he figures to be in the rotation, and he could help with scoring and rebounding. Vines may also turn out to be the perfect backcourt partner for McMillian because he's tough and can get his own shot.

STRATEGY: Although Udezue is back on the floor, the mind-set doesn't change in Laramie. The Cowboys are going to be up-tempo and try to outscore everyone. At the lofty 7,220-foot altitude of the Arena-Auditorium, that strategy works. Most teams simply can't keep up with Wyoming. The key will be how that style works away from the Double-A. Last year's five road wins were the most for the program since 1992.

DATA

Cowboys

Coach: Steve McClain (37-22, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 19-12. MWC: 8-6/T4th.

Last league title: 1988 (WAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Laramie, Wyo.

Website: www.wyomingathletics.com

Home court: Arena Auditorium (15,028).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
44	G/F	Marcus Bailey*	6-5/190	So.	7.8	3.4	1.2	51.8	75.3	37.8
21	G	Paris Corner	6-1/193	Jr.	Transfer from Iowa State.					
22	F/C	Josh Davis*	6-8/235	Jr.	14.3	8.7	1.3	49.9	64.4	45.5
14	G	Brett McFall	6.0/180	Sr.	8.4	1.7	2.8	46.9	76.1	46.0
10	G	Chris McMillian*	5-10/180	Jr.	9.7	2.9	3.7	38.4	75.7	21.2
00	F/C	Ronell Mingo	6-9/230	Jr.	Played for Compton (Calif.) Community College.					
5	F/C	U. Nsonwu-Amadi	6-10/260	So.	Cousin of Udezue redshirted last year.					
25	F	Joe Ries	6-8/230	Fr.	Highly rated recruit from St. Louis.					
20	F	David Rottinghaus	6-5/195	Fr.	One of top 100 high school seniors.					
23	F/C	Scottie Vines	6-2/190	Jr.	Three-sport letterman transfer from E. Utah CC.					
4	F/C	Ugo Udezue	6-8/245	Jr.	Pre-injury: 20.5 ppg, 7.4 rpg as '98-99 starter.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Anthony Blakes*	6-2/188	13.0	6.0	3.5	44.8	66.3	36.1
F	LeDarion Jones*	6-7/232	13.8	5.3	1.0	45.9	71.0	37.1

Schedule		D16 Oregon State		J13 at Colorado State		F10 Colorado State	
N18	UC Riverside	D19	Delaware State	J20	Utah	F15	at Brigham Young
N27	Denver	D21	at South Carolina	J22	Brigham Young	F17	at Creighton
D1	Creighton	D23	at Akron	J27	at Air Force	F24	Air Force
D3	Montana State	D30	Wichita State	J29	at New Mexico	F26	New Mexico
D7	at Cal St. Northridge	J3	at LSU	F3	San Diego State	M1	at San Diego State
D9	at Cal St. Fullerton	J8	at Utah	F5	UNLV	M3	at UNLV

4. Brigham Young

NATIONAL RANK

63

FRONT COURT: The battle for forward Garner Meads was intense but Steve Cleveland won, beating out rival Utah and national power Stanford for the freshman. Meads also decided to delay his Mormon Church mission for a year, which means Cleveland is somewhat obligated to play him.

BACK COURT: Terrell Lyday is arguably the most exciting player in the league. He can light it up on offense, and he can make you look stupid with his quickness on defense. Matt Montague, who is keeping the point guard spot warm until Mark Bigelow returns from his mission next year, is an underrated player. Michael Vranes is a hard-nosed competitor.

KEY NEWCOMER: Meads will be around for only one year before leaving to spread the gospel, but make no mistake about it, he will be under tremendous pressure to live up to his billing by the demanding BYU faithful. That aside, the Cougars will need his rebounding and scoring inside to give Mekeli Wesley more freedom and take some of the pressure off Lyday.

STRATEGY: Since Cleveland took over in 1997, his goal has been to bring respectability back to the program, and he has managed to do it by playing 94-foot basketball. The Cougars play tough at both ends, they get after people and they have guys who enjoy playing the game. Lyday gives them a pure scoring threat, Eric Nielsen, Montague and Vranes are better than people give them credit for, and Cleveland and his staff have done an outstanding job of recruiting and getting players to buy into their plan. This year, the goals are loftier as fans are expecting the Cougars to take a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Cougars

Coach: Steve Cleveland (43-48, 3 years).
1999-2000 record: 22-11, MWC: 7-7/6th.
Last league title: 1993 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Provo, Utah.
Home court: Marriott Center (22,700).

Website: www.byucougars.com

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Jordan Archibald	6-4/205	Fr.	Made Maryland's All-State team last year.					
20	G/F	Daniel Bobik	6-6/195	Fr.	Ventura (Calif.) County MVP last year.					
34	F	Jacob Chrisman	6-9/210	Fr.	Shot 69% from field in senior year.					
43	C	Derek Dawes	6-11/220	Fr.	Averaged 19 ppg senior year of high school.					
4	G/F	Travis Hansen	6-6/225	So.	Strengthens one of BYU's top incoming classes.					
24	G	Terrell Lyday*	6-3/190	Sr.	17.1	4.0	1.8	45.2	74.2	39.4
41	F	Garner Meads	6-8/215	Fr.	Brings strong skills, especially footwork.					
31	G	Matt Montague*	6-1/190	Jr.	3.0	2.6	3.8	40.0	66.7	25.0
25	F	Eric Nielsen*	6-8/210	Jr.	5.8	4.1	0.8	51.9	83.3	00.0
13	G	Michael Vranes*	6-3/190	Jr.	8.0	4.1	2.7	38.8	51.4	37.4
15	F	Mekeli Wesley*	6-9/230	Sr.	16.8	5.8	1.6	48.4	74.1	37.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Todd Christensen	6-1/175	5.6	0.8	0.9	45.7	75.0	41.9
F	Silester Rivers	6-7/230	6.6	4.5	0.6	53.8	77.8	29.5

Schedule

N21	Elon (N.C.)	D16	Utah State	J20	at Colorado State	F17	Colorado State
N25	UC Santa Barbara	D21-23	Pearl Harbor Cts.	J22	at Wyoming	F24	at Utah
N30	at San Francisco	D28	at Weber State	J29	Utah	M1	at New Mexico
D2	at Arizona State	D30	South Alabama	F1	Air Force	M3	at Air Force
D7	Florida International	J2	Idaho	F3	New Mexico		
D9	at Rice	J6	Texas A&M-C.C.	F10	at UNLV		
D14	Southern Utah	J13	San Diego State	F12	at San Diego State		
		J15	UNLV	F15	Wyoming		

5. New Mexico

NATIONAL RANK

83

FRONT COURT: Coach Fran Fraschilla may have cleaned house in the offseason, but one guy who isn't going anywhere is Wayland White, the team's best athlete and toughest competitor. White was slow to make the transition from junior college to D-I. But once

he found his stride, he became one of the conference's best players. The frontcourt took a jolt when it was learned in August that Dion Broom was academically ineligible. It's hoped 6-9 freshman Patrick Dennehy will be able to contribute more than is expected from a freshman. A healthy Brian Smith also should help.

BACK COURT: Marlon Parmer, one of Fraschilla's first recruits, was kept around. Everyone else was told adios. Fraschilla needed to make room for Ruben Douglas, the talented transfer from Arizona who will be eligible in December. JC transfer Eric Chatfield will likely be the starting shooting guard.

KEY NEWCOMER: Douglas has played in a winning program at Arizona, and Fraschilla says winning is an attitude. Put the two together, and New Mexico becomes a better team. The only problem is the Lobos have to wait until December for Douglas to step onto the floor at The Pit. But anyone who has seen Douglas play knows it'll be worth the wait.

STRATEGY: Second-year coach Fraschilla wants to play high-pressure basketball. But until he gets players to execute his style, he'll have to make due with picking his spots. One thing they must do is regain that sense of invincibility that comes with playing in The Pit. New Mexico lost seven games at home last year, and that was a killer. If the Lobos are to get back to the NAAs, they have to dominate at home and win their share on the road.

Lobos

Coach: Fran Fraschilla (18-14, 1 year; 138-73 overall, 7 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 18-14, MWC: 9-5/3rd. Lost to Wake Forest in NIT 2nd round.
Last league title: 1994 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Albuquerque, N.M.
Home court: The Pit/Bob King Court (18,018).

Website: www.GoLobos.com

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
00	C	Malcolm Battles	6-9/250	Jr.	Averaged 11 ppg in junior college.					
42	G	Eric Chatfield	6-3/215	Jr.	First-team J.C. All American in 1998-99.					
5	G	Ruben Douglas	6-4/185	So.	Transfer from Arizona is eligible in December.					
42	C	Patrick Dennehy	6-9/220	Fr.	Has range up to 15 feet.					
30	F	Pat Kelly	6-6/180	Jr.	0.8	0.7	0	33.3	83.3	00.0
10	G	Tim Lightfoot	6-3/170	Jr.	5.8	1.2	.8	41.2	72.0	40.0
13	G	Marlon Parmer	6-2/180	So.	7.8	3.3	3.6	41.0	66.4	26.2
21	C	Brian Smith	6-8/245	Sr.	2.4	1.5	.2	51.0	71.4	00.0
4	F	Wayland White*	6-6/205	Sr.	9.7	4.3	1.1	54.6	47.2	20.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Kevin Henry*	6-3/185	9.0	4.8	1.5	37.4	88.9	31.5
G	Lamont Long*	6-4/190	18.7	5.2	2.3	43.1	80.8	37.0
F	Damion Walker*	6-7/225	12.6	6.1	.6	55.3	80.9	14.3
G	R.T. Guinn*	6-9/235	4.6	4.8	0.3	55.9	56.0	33.3

Schedule

N13	George Mason	D23	Mercer	J29	Wyoming	M1	BYU
N29	East. New Mexico	D29-30	Lobo Inv.	F3	at BYU	M3	Utah
D2	Western Kentucky	J2	at Gonzaga	F5	at Utah		*Preseason NIT
TBA	New Mexico State	J8	at San Diego State	F10	at Air Force		
TBA	at New Mexico St.	J13	Air Force	F17	San Diego State		
TBD	Nonconfer. game	J20	at Stanford	F19	UNLV		
D21	Furman	J22	at UNLV	F24	at Colorado State		
		J27	Colorado State	F26	at Wyoming		

6. San Diego State

NATIONAL RANK

186

FRONT COURT: Myron Epps is a diamond in the rough, a nice player who has been toiling in obscurity for a bad team. The good news is Steve Fisher got Epps some help. Randy Holcomb, who played at Fresno State, will take some of the heat off Epps,

especially inside, where Holcomb is a powerful finisher. The question is, Can Fisher get Marcelo Correa to play like he did as a sophomore, when he was one of the rising stars in the WAC?

BACK COURT: Deandre Moore was an important pickup for the Aztecs. The 5-9 point guard has Division I experience at Vanderbilt. Who his backcourt partner will be is a bit of a mystery. It could be Karlo Kovacic, a first-team all-state player at Modesto JC. Or it could be Jim Roban, who has recovered from back surgery and was lighting it up in the summer hoop circuit.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Aztecs needed someone who can be a leader on the floor, and Moore will provide that leadership. His experience will be invaluable to a team that has to learn how to win after suffering through a 5-23 season.

STRATEGY: The fact Fisher won five games with Division II talent is amazing in itself. Now he has a few guys who can play D-1 ball, and the Aztecs should be the most improved team in the Mountain West. They're not a bunch of skywalking, high-flying dunkaholics, but the guys Fisher brought in are athletic, and that's a step in the right direction. Look for the Aztecs to try and be more up-tempo on offense and play more pressure, trapping defense as they look to extend the court on their opponents. Fisher knows what he's doing, and the results will bear that out come March, when this team escapes the cellar.

DATA

Aztecs

Coach: Steve Fisher (5-23, 1 year; 189-105 overall, 10 years; 20-6 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with Michigan in 1989).

1999-2000 record: 5-23. MWC: 0-14/8th.

Last league title: 1978 (tie, Pacific Coast Athletic Association).

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: San Diego.

Website: www.goaztecs.com

Home court: Cox Arena (12,414).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	David Abramowitz	6-0/170	Jr.	7.6	—	3.0	35.6	84.8	33.9
42	C	Marcelo Correa*	6-10/225Sr.		10.2	6.4	—	48.1	62.2	33.3
33	F	Myron Epps*	6-6/210	Jr.	14.4	5.9	—	51.0	60.5	50.0
	F	Randy Holcomb	6-8/225	Jr	Averaged 23 ppg at L.A. City CC.					
	G	Karlo Kovacic	6-4/205	Jr.	Parents live in Drazice, Croatia.					
32	F	Michael Marion	6-6/190	Sr	5.7	2.4	—	34.2	66.0	16.3
	G	Deandre Moore	5-9/165	So.	Played as a freshman at Vanderbilt.					
	G	Jim Roban	6-6/210	Sr.	Missed last year after back surgery.					
	F	Aerick Sanders	6-9/205	Fr.	Might play power forward and center.					
	F	Chris Walton	6-8/215	Fr.	Son of former NBA star Bill Walton					
	F/G	Curtis Washington	6-5/180	Jr.	May play off-guard and small forward.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Bradley Jackson*	5-10/165	7.1	—	3.6	35.5	74.0	33.9
F	Vince Okotie*	6-7/230	6.4	2.5	—	37.0	72.9	16.7
G	Donte Wilson*	6-3/175	4.5	—	1.8	37.0	80.0	31.0

Schedule

N18 UC San Diego	D16 Arizona State	J15 at Utah	F19 at Air Force
N21 New Mexico State	D21 Morgan State	J20 Air Force	F24 UNLV
N27 at Fresno State	D28 Norfolk State	J27 at UNLV	M1 Wyoming
N30 Florida Atlantic	D30 Oklahoma State	F3 at Wyoming	M3 Colorado State
D2 Sacramento St.	J4 Texas A&M-C.C.	F5 at Colorado State	
D6 at UC Santa Barb.	J6 at Loyola Mary.	F10 Utah	
D9 San Diego	J8 New Mexico	F12 Brigham Young	
	J13 at Brigham Young	F17 at New Mexico	

7. Colorado State

NATIONAL RANK

195

FRONT COURT: Losing Ceedric Goodwyn and his 17.8-point average doesn't help the Rams, who were already somewhat thin up front. In addition to Goodwyn's scoring, his athleticism and ability to guard people won't be easy to replace. It is one reason Colorado

State is being picked to finish toward the bottom. The Rams are also minus solid center John Ford. Replacing them will likely be Garrett Patik, a senior who led the team in rebounding average (5.6). R'Cell Harris redshirted last year, and he's a candidate for playing time. David Fisher will get a chance to replace Ford at center. Maybe 7-0 freshman Matt Nelson will get a shot as well. Look for first-year coach Dale Layer to do a lot of experimenting here as he tries to figure out who to play in a league that boasts quality big men everywhere.

BACK COURT: The Rams were the top 3-point shooting team in the nation last year, thanks to a talented backcourt trio of John Sivesind, Aki Palmer and Ron Grady. Those three likely will continue to have the green light from downtown, and that's where the bulk of CSU's points will come from.

KEY NEWCOMER: Layer didn't have a lot of time to sign people since he came on board late, but forward Adrian "Buck" Hayes is supposed to be able to run the floor exceptionally well. Perhaps he will bring a little bit of Goodwyn's game.

STRATEGY: The Rams figure to continue to be perimeter-oriented, because that is their strength. At some point, Layer would like to have a bigger, more physical front line on the floor and be able to go inside more, which should help improve their road record. However, that may be a year or two away.

DATA

Rams

Coach: Dale Layer (first year).

1999-2000 record: 18-12. MWC: 8-6/4th.

Last league title: 1990 (WAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Fort Collins, Colo.

Website: www.CSURAMS.com

Home court: Moby Arena (8,745).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	Andy Birley	6-4/180	So.	5.7	.7	0.0	47.5	70.0	48.2
	F	Matt Brown	6-9/215	Jr.	Shot better than 50% at junior college in '99.					
44	F	David Fisher	6-10/220	Sr.	2.1	1.7	.4	41.7	60.0	25.0
3	G	Ron Grady*	6-3/185	Sr.	9.2	3.2	1.6	43.2	81.4	34.5
33	F	Brian Greene	6-8/235	So.	3.5	2.7	.7	50.8	75.5	50.0
15	F	R'Cell Harris	6-8/235	Jr.	JC transfer redshirted last year.					
	F	Adrian Hayes	6-7/190	Fr.	15 ppg, 3 bpg last year in high school					
14	G	Derrick Mansell	6-1/175	So.	1.6	1.2	1.8	32.3	53.8	33.3
	C	Matt Nelson	7-0/220	Fr.	Averaged 15 ppg, 8 rpg, 8 bpg as a prep senior.					
10	G	Aki Palmer*	5-9/175	Sr.	9.0	1.8	2.6	47.7	74.7	49.0
40	F	Garrett Patik*	6-7/210	Sr.	3.7	5.6	1.5	35.2	60.0	25.0
32	G	John Sivesind*	6-3/195	Sr.	11.5	3.1	2.2	48.1	92.2	46.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Ceedric Goodwin*	6-8/230	17.8	4.5	2.5	51.3	69.9	42.0
C	John Ford	6-9/205	6.7	2.6	.8	59.5	59.5	0.0

Schedule

N18 Southern Oregon	D23 at Colorado	J29 at Air Force	M1 at UNLV
N25 at Washington State	D28-29 Hoosier Classic	F3 UNLV	M3 at San Diego State
N28 Sacramento State	J2 Alabama-Huntsville	F5 San Diego State	
N30-D1 Phoenix Classic	J4 Texas-Pan Amer.	F10 at Wyoming	
D6 at Creighton	J13 Wyoming	F17 at Brigham Young	
D18 Denver	J20 Brigham Young	F19 at Utah	
D20 Austin Peay	J22 Utah	F24 New Mexico	
	J27 at New Mexico	F26 Air Force	

8. Air Force

NATIONAL RANK

227

FRONTCOURT: Tom Bellairs, who led the league in rebounding last year and was co-freshman of the year, should make Joe Scott's first year a little easier. At 6-6, Bellairs gives height away to everyone but outworks virtually every foe and is tenacious

on the glass. He will see the ball much more after registering eight double-doubles as the third option last season. Senior Byron Nicholson figures to get a shot at a job based on experience alone. Freshman Aaron Kuhle might be able to break through at small forward.

BACKCOURT: Air Force is in good shape here with Jarvis Croff, who is a solid scorer and an underrated defender, and point guard Vernard Jenkins, who showed he can play at this level and excel. Croff is the team's leading returning scorer, having averaged 17.3 points a game. Jenkins was groomed to lead a quicker attack, but now he'll be asked to slow things in the halfcourt. Lawrence Yazzie's outside shooting off the bench will be missed, but his younger brother, Lamoni, is prepared to help with that.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Many of the signees will find themselves as members of the junior varsity. But if anyone has a chance to stick with the big boys, it's probably one of two guys—Kuhle or 6-10 Grant Turley.

STRATEGY: No team will be undergoing more changes than Air Force. After trying to run a little under former coach Reggie Minton, the Falcons are going to the halfcourt, screen-and-cut Princeton style under Scott, who played for the Tigers and is a former assistant to coach Bill Carmody there. It might play to some of the players' strengths, particularly Bellairs.

DATA

Falcons

Coach: Joe Scott (first year).

1999-2000 record: 8-20. MWC: 4-10/7th.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1962.

Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.

Home court: Clune Arena (6,002)

Website: www.airforcesports.com

*1999-2000 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Jon Baize	6-7	Jr.	Played on the J.V. team last season.					
32	F	Tom Bellairs*	6-6/235	So.	8.2	9.2	.8	51.4	54.9	00.0
24	G	Jarvis Croff*	6-4/190	Sr.	17.3	4.2	1.1	40.0	72.9	36.9
22	G	Vernard Jenkins*	5-9/177	So.	4.6	2.0	3.1	34.1	61.5	34.5
	F	Aaron Kuhle	6-3/195	Fr.	Concord, Calif., native could contribute quickly.					
15	F	Jacob Leonard	6-8/245	Jr.	0.3	0.3	0.0	20.0	.000	.000
2	G	Selwyn Mansell	5-9/170	Jr.	1.3	.2	.8	37.5	75.0	25.0
30	F	Byron Nicholson	6-6/235	Sr.	2.3	2.1	.25	50.0	66.7	00.0
	F	Tysen Pina	6-7/195	Fr.	County player of the year in high school.					
	G/F	Robert Todd	6-6/200	Fr.	All-state selection from Titusville, Fla.					
	G	Aaron Tripi	6-2/170	Fr.	Team MVP in Sugarland, Texas.					
	F	Grant Turley	6-10/190	Fr.	Two-year letterman in Chino Valley, Ariz.					
	F	Joshua Wallace	6-9/190	Fr.	Two-time MVP in Casa Grande, Ariz.					
12	G	Lamoni Yazzie	6-0/170	Jr.	1.6	.5	1	22.6	85.7	16.7

Key Losses

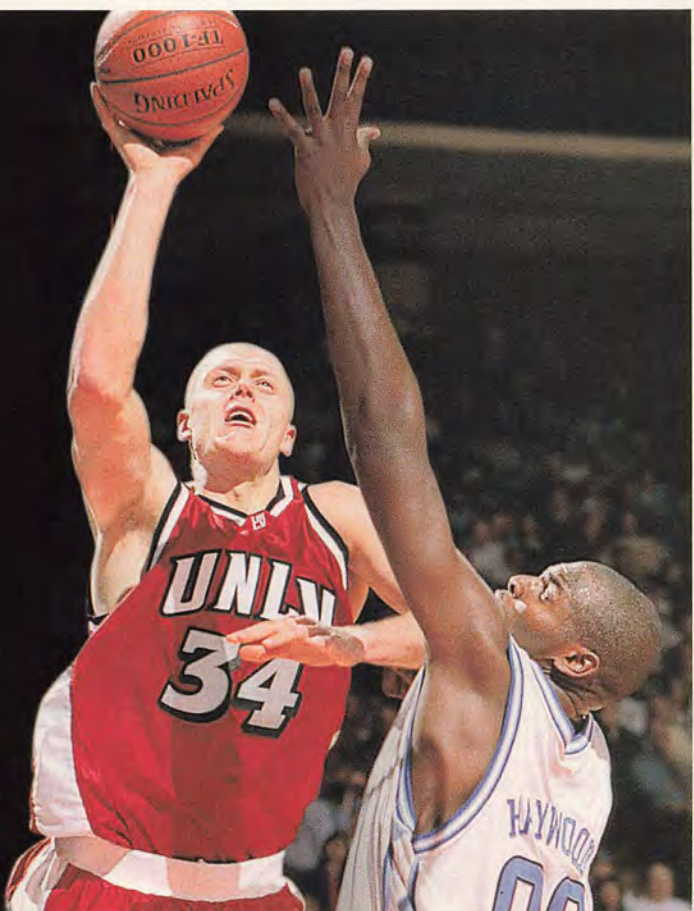
Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Miguel Garcia*	6-6/215	7.5	5.8	1.6	39.9	70.9	33.3
C	Tyron Wright*	6-4/195	13.8	4.5	2.1	37.2	65.4	14.1

Schedule

N16-17	BCA Classic	D12	Central Conn. State	J29	Colorado State	M1	Utah
D22	at Denver	D22	at Denver	F1	at Brigham Young	M3	Brigham Young
N21	at Long Beach St.	D28-29	Gossner Fds Cl.	F3	at Utah		
N24	Denver	J6	Liberty	F10	New Mexico		
N28	Northern Arizona	J8	at UNLV	F17	UNLV		
D2	Navy	J13	at New Mexico	F19	San Diego State		
D5	Lehigh	J20	at San Diego State	F24	at Wyoming		
D9	at S. Carolina St.	J27	Wyoming	F26	at Colorado State		

15

The number of double-doubles posted last season by UNLV's Kaspars Kambala, who led the Mountain West in the category and also ranked among the nation's leaders. In addition, Kambala, a native of Latvia, started all 31 games, led the league in rebounding and was second in scoring for a 23-8 Rebels team that tied for the regular-season conference title. Kambala is one of four returning senior starters, and his inside scoring is the key to a title repeat.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Atlantic 10

ASCENDING: Fordham. When it joined the conference, many laughed and said that bringing in the once-proud Rams was a weak attempt by the league to co-opt the rich New York TV market and little else. How in the world could a school with such a dinky gym ever help a league with big-time aspirations? Don't look now—the Rams may not be in the title hunt, but woe to the team that must visit the Bronx this season. Fordham has imported some significant young talent, and more is on the way. You

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

Free-lance writer from Philadelphia

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Xavier* | 8. St. Bonaventure |
| 2. Massachusetts* | 9. La Salle |
| 3. Dayton | 10. Duquesne |
| 4. Temple | 11. Rhode Island |
| 5. George Washington | *NCAA tourney pick |
| 6. St. Joseph's | |
| 7. Fordham | |

Preseason All-Atlantic 10

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tony Stanley, Dayton	6-4	200	Sr.
G	Quincy Wadley, Temple	6-4	200	Sr.
G	Monty Mack, Massachusetts	6-3	200	Sr.
F	Lloyd Price, Xavier	6-5	208	Jr.
F	David West, Xavier	6-8	230	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Lynn Greer, Temple	6-1	170	Jr.
G	Marvin O'Connor, St. Joseph's	6-4	190	Jr.
F	Brooks Hall, Dayton	6-6	205	So.
F	Rasual Butler, La Salle	6-7	195	Jr.
F	Wayne Smith, Duquesne	6-7	215	Jr.

Player of the Year

Monty Mack, G, Massachusetts

Newcomer of the Year

Romain Sato, F/G, Xavier

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Lynn Greer, Temple
- Best rebounder:** David West, Xavier
- Best playmaker:** Bernard Barrow, George Washington
- Best defender:** Jason Harris, Fordham
- Best leaper:** Tavorris Bell, Rhode Island
- Best under 6-0:** Bernard Barrow, George Washington
- Best over 7-0:** Alexandre Sazonov, St. Joseph's
- Most versatile:** Teremun Johnson, Fordham
- Most flamboyant:** Tavorris Bell, Rhode Island
- Best NBA prospect:** David West, Xavier

have been warned.

DESCENDING: St. Bonaventure. It rescued its season last year with a big finish that included an NCAA Tournament berth, then had a scintillating overtime near-miss against Kentucky in the Big Dance. That won't be happening this season, thanks to the loss of three starters. The Bonnies won't be awful, but they can't be expected to be perpetual March Madness guests.

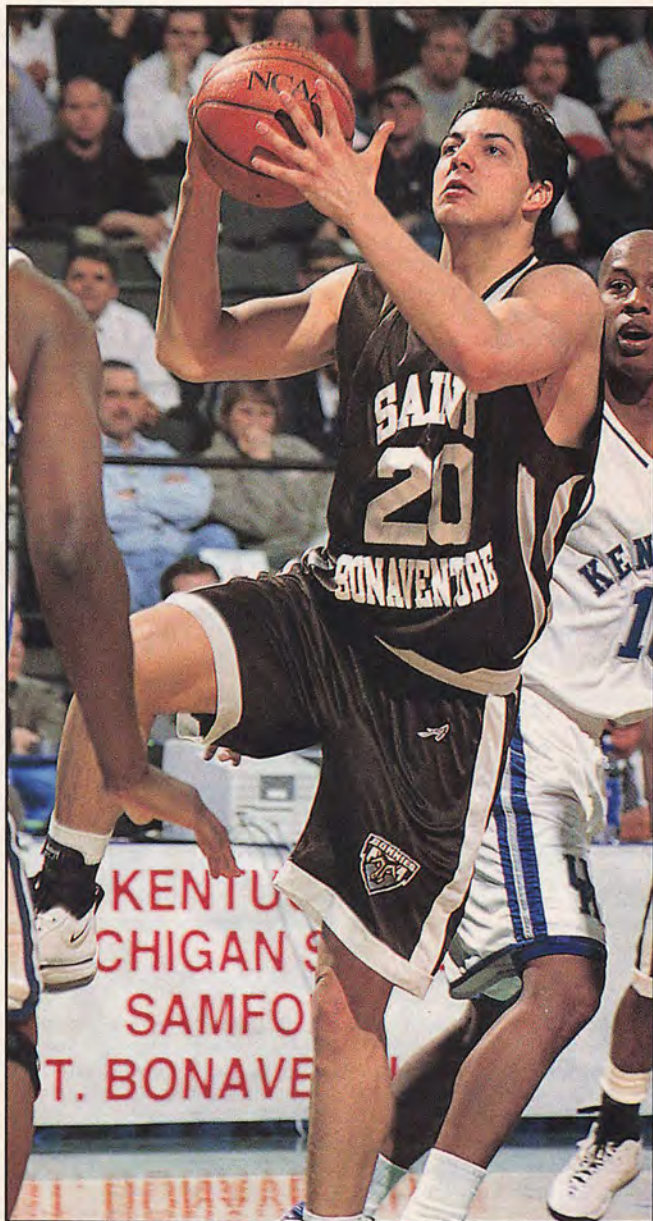
BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Pepe Sanchez, Temple. Coach John Chaney spent the past two years reciting love poems to Sanchez, to whom he entrusted the running of his offense and matchup zone. The loss of Sanchez, who was the NCAA's best pure point guard, is huge for the Owls. Junior Lynn Greer, who will inherit the position, has great shooting instincts but not Chaney's eye for the finer points of leading a team—like Sanchez had.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Victor Thomas, La Salle. Thomas was among the league's top 10 last year in scoring (eighth), rebounding (second) and field-goal percentage (fourth), yet he didn't earn a spot on any of the league's three all-star teams. The

6-7 Thomas is generously listed at 200 pounds but is a warrior nonetheless.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Lloyd Price, Xavier. It certainly wasn't fair to think the swingman would be able to take over for injured Darnell Williams two years ago and



REALITY CHECK: Patricio Prato and St. Bonaventure finished strong and nearly upset Kentucky in March, but don't expect big things this year. The Bonnies lost three starters.

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

provide the same level of production. But it is fair to say that Price has yet to display the commitment and consistency necessary to be the top-flight player his skills indicate he can be. This is a huge year for Price, who must step to the forefront for the Musketeers or risk being overrun by younger players.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Speedy Morris, La Salle. In the spring of 1999, Morris was issued a three-year reprieve, thanks in part to the lobbying of Explorers legend Tom Gola. After an 11-17 season, Morris finds himself in a do-or-die position. He must lead La Salle to the .500 mark or better or risk entering the last year of his deal with dwindling support. The loss of guard Donnie Carr doesn't help his cause, but an improved frontcourt might.

BEST BETS: Chaney will have at least one postgame eruption targeting sports talk radio, Philadelphia fans or the Iraqi Republican Guard. ... At least half the coaches in the league will complain that this year's one-time-only asymmetrical scheduling system favors the other half of the coaches. ... La Salle forward Rasual Butler will be spotted carrying weights around campus in a bid to build strength in his shooting wrist for what should be a flurry of field-goal attempts. ... Many fans will turn out for Rhode Island games just to see if

Zach Marbury's big brother, New Jersey Nets star Stephon, will be there—and what jewelry he might be wearing. ... Around February, Virginia Tech coach Ricky Stokes will be lamenting his school's decision to switch from the A-10 to the Big East conference.

ODDS AND ENDS: The A-10 will sort its teams into one division for the first time since the 1994-95 season, thanks to the departure of Virginia Tech. Colonial Athletic Association member Richmond will join next season, at which time two divisions again will be used. ... After 17 seasons at the Cincinnati Gardens, Xavier moves into the swanky Cintas Center, an on-campus facility that seats 10,200 and boasts 21 luxury suites. ... Think there will be some offense in the league this year? You bet. Thirteen of last year's top 16 scorers return, including George Washington sophomore gunner SirValiant Brown, who led the league and ranked second in the nation with 24.6 ppg. ... After welcoming four new coaches in the past two seasons, the A-10 reports no sideline turnover heading into this season. ... This season marks the conference's 25th anniversary season. The A-10 began in 1975 as the Eastern Collegiate Basketball League; just Duquesne, George Washington and Massachusetts remain from the original eight-team configuration.

ATLANTIC 10

Returning Leaders

Name	School	APG
SirValiant Brown	Geo. Wash.	24.6
Rasual Butler	La Salle	18.4
Wayne Smith	Duquesne	16.7
Marvin O'Connor	St. Joseph's	16.6
Chris Monroe	Geo. Wash.	16.3

Name	School	RPG
David West	Xavier	9.1
Victor Thomas	La Salle	8.7
Duke McKamey	Fordham	8.0
Kitwana Rhymer	Massachusetts	7.6
Kevin Lyde	Temple	7.6

Name	School	APG
Bernard Barrow	Geo. Wash.	5.2
Julian Blanks	La Salle	4.8
Teremun Johnson	Fordham	4.3
Maurice McAfee	Xavier	4.2
Bevon Robin	Fordham	3.6

Name	School	FG%
Tavorris Bell	Rhode Island	53.0
Victor Thomas	La Salle	46.0
Tony Stanley	Dayton	41.5
Marvin O'Connor	St. Joseph's	40.8
Rasual Butler	La Salle	39.9

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
EAST								
Temple	14	2	27	6	13	0	14	6
St. Bonaventure	11	5	21	10	11	2	10	8
Massachusetts	9	7	17	16	6	6	11	10
St. Joseph's	7	9	13	16	6	6	7	10
Fordham	7	9	14	15	6	5	8	10
Rhode Island	2	14	5	25	1	10	4	15
WEST								
Dayton	11	5	22	9	13	2	9	7
George Washington	9	7	15	15	8	4	7	11
Xavier	9	7	21	12	14	1	7	11
Virginia Tech*	8	8	16	15	9	4	7	10
La Salle	5	11	11	17	6	5	5	12
Duquesne	4	12	9	20	7	6	2	14

*now in Big East

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
George Wash.	30	40.9	68.3	28.2	37.7	12.9	8.7	2.9	13.3	80.6
Fordham	29	43.7	74.8	36.4	36.8	15.6	8.9	3.2	16.5	75.5
Xavier	33	44.0	71.0	35.1	38.2	14.4	7.9	3.6	16.4	75.2
Dayton	31	43.3	71.3	36.9	37.2	13.3	6.9	2.3	13.8	71.4
St. Joseph's	29	41.8	71.3	35.3	37.3	15.3	5.3	2.7	13.3	70.4
Duquesne	29	39.1	68.3	31.6	37.6	12.0	6.2	2.3	15.7	69.3
St. Bonaventure	31	44.7	66.1	34.6	36.5	12.3	8.3	2.8	15.8	68.9
Massachusetts	33	42.9	65.0	33.9	35.6	12.6	9.0	4.0	14.5	68.6
Temple	33	36.2	65.6	34.8	39.0	14.3	9.5	4.2	9.8	68.5
La Salle	28	39.6	68.2	34.2	35.8	12.3	5.0	4.0	13.1	65.9
Virginia Tech	31	43.5	66.2	30.2	36.0	12.8	7.6	5.0	16.7	64.4
Rhode Island	30	40.5	62.5	32.8	34.8	11.0	7.0	3.7	18.0	62.3

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	RPG	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Temple	33	36.2	66.8	32.4	34.4	13.1	4.2	2.6	14.2	54.8
Virginia Tech	31	39.5	69.2	32.1	35.8	10.4	7.0	3.0	15.5	63.9
St. Bonaventure	31	41.1	68.6	36.1	33.6	11.9	7.6	2.5	16.3	64.7
Massachusetts	33	41.2	65.6	32.5	38.2	12.6	7.2	4.0	16.9	64.8
Dayton	31	42.7	69.7	31.1	32.7	12.2	5.8	3.2	14.5	64.9
La Salle	28	42.3	69.9	32.0	40.1	13.4	7.3	2.1	13.1	68.7
Xavier	33	44.0	68.8	35.9	33.3	14.9	7.5	3.0	17.5	69.2
St. Joseph's	29	41.8	70.1	36.0	36.4	13.9	7.2	3.3	12.6	70.7
Duquesne	29	39.1	70.8	33.2	41.3	16.5	6.0	4.2	15.9	76.3
Rhode Island	30	40.5	67.0	33.4	39.7	15.9	8.1	2.7	14.3	76.6
Fordham	29	43.4	64.5	30.6	38.7	15.0	8.0	3.9	15.1	76.6
George Wash.	30	47.3	70.9	36.5	42.1	15.9	6.3	5.2	19.2	81.4

Ranking the Recruiting

- UMass: Transfer Jackie Rogers and freshmen Jameel Pugh and Anthony Anderson likely to have the biggest impact.
- Xavier: Romain Sato has Rookie of the Year skills; Khalil Nixon upgrades the frontcourt.
- Fordham: Liberto Tetimadingar and Jeff McMillan are nucleus for future success.
- Dayton: G Ramod Marshall will help immediately; big men Lamar Hill and Sean Finn will fill a void in the middle.
- George Washington: Tom Penders loves guards; shooter Greg Collucci and wing Darnell Miller should make him smile.
- St. Joseph's: The Hawks need a point guard and got one in talented Jameer Nelson.
- Rhode Island: Dinno Daniels and Brian Woodward are sharp guards.
- St. Bonaventure: G Marques Green is a welcome addition; F Qadir Habeeb adds heft.
- La Salle: Joel-Jean Baptiste adds depth to the frontcourt.
- Duquesne: J-S Esposito is a solid point guard; Jon Pawlak should add depth up front.
- Temple: Transfer Ronald Blackshear is in, but two front-court newcomers were found academically ineligible.

1. Xavier

NATIONAL RANK

27

Schedule

N18 Miami (OH)
N22 Eastern Kentucky
N28 Samford
D2 at Wisconsin
D5 San Francisco
D9 at Princeton
D14 at Cincinnati
D16 Marquette
D23 at Toledo
D30 Kent
J3 at Fordham
J7 La Salle
J9 Massachusetts
J14 at Rhode Island
J16 at George Washington
J20 St. Joseph's
J27 at Duquesne
J30 Dayton
F3 George Washington
F7 at St. Joseph's
F10 Temple
F14 at Massachusetts
F17 Rhode Island
F21 St. Bonaventure
F25 at LaSalle
M4 at Dayton

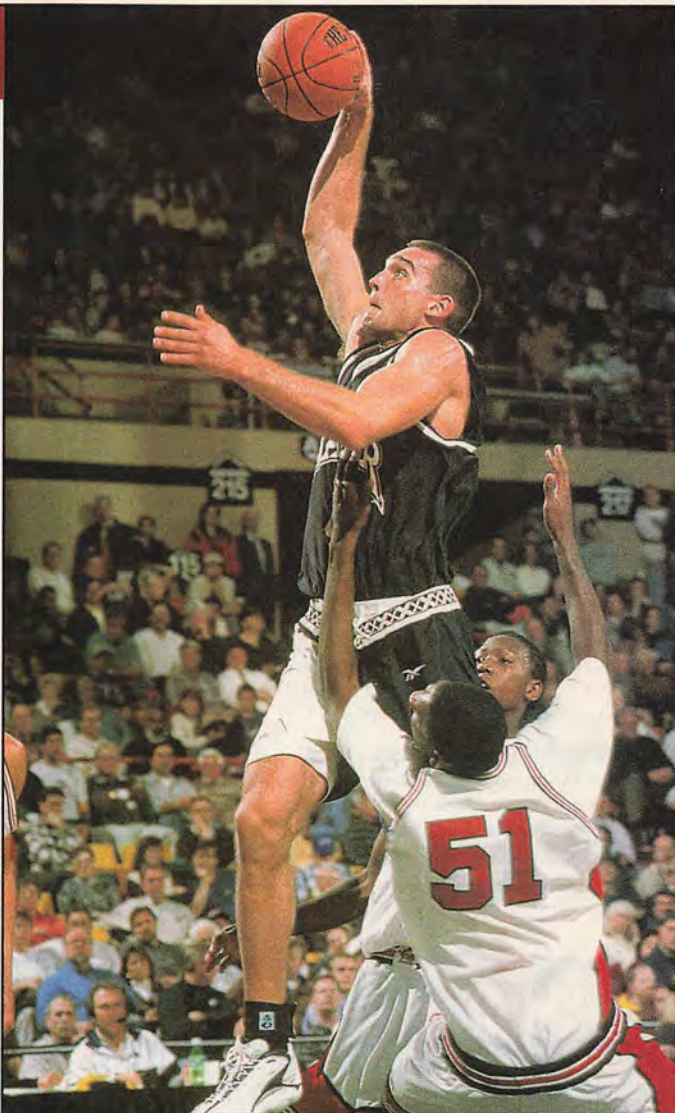
FRONTCOURT: Xavier is never going to be known for its fire-breathing big men (former star Tyrone Hill is an exception), but even a perimeter-oriented team needs some support from the heavy artillery. The unexpected arrival last season of David West was nice, but it wasn't enough. The Musketeers were vulnerable to opposing inside offensive weapons to create room for their wings. That should change this season. It begins with West, a 6-8 sophomore who was a pillar of strength all season long, particularly on the boards. He should be even better this year, thanks to increased bulk and a better touch around the basket. He'll also have more help. Junior Kevin Frey is a solid rebounder but needs to improve his shot, or he'll find himself sitting behind 6-7 JC transfer Khalil Nixon, an athletic forward who may find work atop the Xavier press, making it even more effective. That would be good news for the Musketeers, as last season's squad wasn't able to intimidate rivals on defense as they had in the past. Freshman forward Anthony Coleman will vie for time with senior Reggie Butler.

BACKCOURT: Three new faces are generating a great deal of excitement. The first is swingman Romain Sato. Ohio's Mr. Basketball last year at Dayton Christian High, Sato is a tremendous leaper and an

open-court specialist who can shoot from far enough away to warrant consideration at off-guard. Though not as explosive as Sato, sophomore Lionel Chalmers should have just as big an impact. He sat out last year as a partial qualifier, but he practiced with the Musketeers and showed the quickness and distributing skills necessary to push last season's starting point guard, senior Maurice McAfee, to off-guard on occasion. McAfee led the team last year in scoring, averaging 15.1 points per game, squelching concerns that the losses of Lenny Brown and Gary Lumpkin would cripple the Musketeers. Sophomore scorer Dave Young, a partial qualifier, is another new face. Junior Alvin Brown, who progressed considerably last season, is expected to contribute as well. Also worth mentioning is swingman Lloyd Price, whom many expected to be an immediate star with the Musketeers. Though he did receive second-team all-league honors last year, Price has yet to display the consistency needed to be a big-time player. He does many things well but needs to take the next step this season—or risk losing playing time to Sato.

KEY NEWCOMER: Sato is a big prize for the Musketeers, because his style and athletic ability are perfect for coach Skip Prosser's aggressive system. The thought of putting him and Price on court together must cause plenty of salivating in Cincinnati—and not among Bearcats fans.

STRATEGY: The Musketeers move into their new arena, the gaudy Cintas Center, with just about the perfect team for Prosser's system. There is depth at every position, and if Nixon emerges, Xavier will have an appropriate interior complement to its talented backcourt. Prosser will no doubt love blending the talents of McAfee, Price, Sato, Chalmers, Brown and Young along the perimeter. Their versatility will allow the Musketeers to press and trap with considerable abandon. Up front, expect big things from West. This club may be a year away from truly great things, but this season will certainly be exciting—well into March.



IRON MAN: Unfortunately for Frey, most of his field-goal attempts have not found the goal. He may see more of the bench if he doesn't improve on his 41.1 percent shooting.

Musketeers

Coach: Skip Prosser (127-57, 6 years; 144-70 overall, 7 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 21-12. Atlantic 10 West: 9-7/T2nd. Lost to Notre Dame in NIT second round.

Last league title: 1998 (tie, A-10 West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Cincinnati.

Website: www.xu.edu

Home court: Cintas Center (10,200).

1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
24	G	Alvin Brown	6-3/180	Jr.	6.5	2.1	1.9	39.9	63.8	26.9
55	C	Reggie Butler	6-10/255	Sr.	1.7	1.9	0.4	41.5	68.2	—
0	G	Lionel Chalmers	6-0/178	So.	Sat out last season as partial qualifier.					
21	F	Anthony Coleman	6-9/210	Fr.	Averaged 12.0 ppg as high school senior.					
3	F	Kevin Frey	6-8/235	Jr.	8.8	5.1	1.2	41.1	78.0	26.5
40	C	Marcus Mason	6-9/250	Sr.	1.0	1.3	0.0	66.7	33.3	—
15	G	Maurice McAfee*	6-0/175	Sr.	15.1	3.5	4.2	40.8	82.4	39.4
20	F/G	Brandon McIntosh	6-5/255	Jr.	2.2	1.2	0.3	57.1	58.3	20.0
5	F	Khalil Nixon	6-7/220	Jr.	Transfer from College of the Sequoias (Calif.)					
34	F/G	Lloyd Price*	6-5/208	Jr.	13.0	6.0	2.0	44.6	70.1	33.3
10	F/G	Romain Sato	6-4/195	Fr.	Named Ohio's Mr. Basketball last season.					
30	F/C	David West*	6-8/230	So.	11.7	9.1	1.7	53.2	66.7	—
13	G	Dave Young	6-4/210	So.	Sat out last season to focus on academics.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Aaron Turner*	6-7/230	4.7	5.4	1.0	52.2	60.5	—
G	Darnell Williams*	6-5/205	13.0	2.6	2.0	37.3	74.8	36.4

OTTO GREILE / ALLSPORT

ATLANTIC 10

2. Massachusetts

NATIONAL RANK

41

FRONTCOURT: Last year, the Minutemen couldn't have scored inside if their big men were left alone to shoot on eight-foot baskets. This season should be different. A big reason is the arrival of 6-8, 230-pound bruiser Jackie Rogers, a rebounder with athletic skills close to the hoop. Syracuse exile Eric Williams looks as if he will be a force inside, but despite his 6-8, 243-pound frame, he is more suited to life at midrange and could struggle. Sophomore Micah Brand, who flashed potential last year, added weight to his skinny frame in the offseason. Massachusetts isn't loaded, but it will be more potent inside at both ends.

BACKCOURT: Massachusetts welcomes back shooting guard and former partial qualifier Monty Mack for a fourth year. What does that mean? "About 20 a night," jokes coach Bruiser Flint. Mack may not reach that level this year, thanks to more talent around him, but he can go to the basket and hit shots from long range. Freshman Jameel Pugh will wait his turn behind Mack but still show some dazzle. Junior Shannon Crooks will man the point; backup chores belong to senior Jonathan DePina.

KEY NEWCOMER: The team had no one capable of scoring inside last season. Rogers has the skill and strength to change that. He won't be a 20-point, 10-rebound man, but he brings needed production to a weak area.

STRATEGY: Flint wants the Minutemen to press and run, but you need to make shots and rebound for that to happen. If the newcomers help in those two areas—inside and out—Massachusetts should thrive, and Flint, who has no wins in two NCAA trips, won't need to worry about his coaching future.

Minutemen

Coach: Bruiser Flint (71-57, 4 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 17-16. Atlantic 10 East: 9-7/3rd. Lost to Siena in NIT first round.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Amherst, Mass.

Website: www.umassathletics.com

Home court: Mullins Center (9,493).

*1999-2000 starter										Highlighted names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%									
11	G	Anthony Anderson	5-11/175	Fr.	Will challenge for time at point guard.														
40	C/F	Micah Brand	6-11/243	So.	4.3	3.3	0.2	51.9	51.6	—									
30	G	Shannon Crooks*	6-2/222	Jr.	11.6	3.3	3.0	38.5	54.7	28.6									
1	G	Jonathan DePina	5-9/185	Sr.	3.4	2.0	2.4	32.4	55.3	44.4									
34	G/F	Willie Jenkins	6-6/200	Fr.	Averaged 22.0 ppg as high school senior.														
4	G/F	Jarrett Kearse	6-6/220	Jr.	Sat out season after transfer from West Virginia.														
	F	Raheim Lamb	6-5/190	Fr.	Massachusetts native was fall signee.														
5	G	Monty Mack*	6-3/200	Sr.	19.8	3.4	1.9	41.5	81.7	36.1									
14	G	Dale Menendez	5-8/180	So.	Sat out season after transfer from C.W. Post.														
24	G	Jameel Pugh	6-4/200	Fr.	Capable of highlight-reel dunks.														
33	C/F	Kitwana Rhymmer*	6-10/256	Sr.	7.8	7.6	0.4	53.5	67.6	—									
2	F	Jackie Rogers	6-8/230	Jr.	Adds bulk to already sizable frontcourt.														
20	F	Winston Smith	6-5/228	Sr.	2.0	1.7	0.7	40.7	66.7	14.3									
21	F	Eric Williams	6-8/243	Jr.	Sat out season after transfer from Syracuse.														

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Mike Babul*	6-6/230	3.5	3.3	2.0	47.1	36.8	33.3
G	Chris Kirkland*	6-6/228	14.8	6.1	1.7	45.4	71.0	25.0

Schedule

N18 Iona	D14 at Boston University	J25 at La Salle	F24 at George Washington
N20 at Marquette	D29-30 Food Lion Class.	J30 at Rhode Island	F27 at St. Joseph's
N25 at Holy Cross	J6 George Washington	F3 Fordham	M3 St. Bonaventure
D2 Oregon*	J9 at Xavier	F6 at Dayton	*Portland, Ore.
D7 Providence	J13 at St. Bonaventure	F14 Xavier	
D10 at Ohio State	J18 Dayton	F17 Temple	
D12 Connecticut	J20 Duquesne	F20 Rhode Island	

3. Dayton

NATIONAL RANK

51

FRONTCOURT: With center Mark Ashman gone, the team will use a three-man rotation in the middle with banger and JC transfer Lamar Hill, 6-11 freshman Sean Finn and redshirt freshman Keith Waleskowski. It could work, although none can be expected

to perform at a consistently high level right away. Senior Yuanta Holland has talent but needs to show it every night. Sleek swingman Brooks Hall could be one of the conference's best.

BACKCOURT: Edwin Young's graduation means David Morris has to be a full-time point guard, not just a combo. That may not be an easy switch for Morris, who likes to shoot, particularly from long range. Of course, freshman Ramod Marshall could solve that by stepping in right away. Expect steady numbers from Tony Stanley, although he still needs to improve his shooting. Freshmen Stan King and Sam Smith will fortify the wing.

KEY NEWCOMER: The team isn't necessarily down on Finn and Waleskowski, but coach Oliver Purnell knows neither is ready to keep Dayton near the top of the standings. Hill, then, must provide a low-post scoring option and hit the boards hard. If he does, the team may not have any transition problems.

STRATEGY: Dayton reached the NCAA Tournament last season with a team-first approach and aims to do the same thing this year. Stanley and Hall are the standard-bearers, but with so many other contributors around, neither is expected to be a big star. The Flyers may run a little more, as Hall blossoms and Marshall gets comfortable, but don't expect a bunch of games with scores in the 80s. If the point and pivot spots are secured, the Flyers should return to the NAAs. If not, hello, NIT.

Flyers

Coach: Oliver Purnell (89-86, 6 years; 190-161 overall, 12 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 22-9. Atlantic 10 West: 11-5/1st. Lost to Purdue in NCAA West first round.

Last league title: 2000 (A-10 West).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Dayton, Ohio.

Website: www.daytonflyers.com

Home court: University of Dayton Arena (13,455).

*1999-2000 starter										Highlighted names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%									
13	G	Joe Ashburn	5-11/165	Jr.	1.4	0.3	0.3	28.6	100.0	30.0									
54	C	Sean Finn	6-11/230	Fr.	Averaged 22.7 ppg as high school senior.														
14	G	Gamal Gilchrist	6-3/200	Sr.	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	—	—									
5	F	Nate Green*	6-6/235	So.	3.9	3.2	0.8	35.7	66.2	—									
33	F/G	Brooks Hall*	6-6/205	So.	10.4	5.7	1.7	43.0	83.6	39.4									
4	F/C	Lamar Hill	6-8/235	Jr.	Transferred from Tyler (Texas) Junior College.														
23	F	Yuanta Holland	6-7/220	Sr.	8.6	5.2	0.8	50.7	59.3	100.0									
30	G	Stan King	6-4/205	Fr.	Averaged 17 ppg as high school senior.														
3	G	Ramod Marshall	6-2/180	Fr.	Could step into starting lineup immediately.														
15	G	David Morris	5-10/180	Jr.	8.9	3.1	3.5	40.6	77.2	36.4									
44	F/C	Jason Osborne	6-7/260	Fr.	Averaged 13.1 ppg as high school senior.														
32	G/F	Sam Smith	6-5/200	Fr.	Ohio native was a fall signee.														
12	G	Tony Stanley*	6-4/200	Sr.	14.7	5.5	2.0	41.5	73.3	36.8									
45	F/C	Keith Waleskowski	6-9/230	Fr.	Redshirted last season.														

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Mark Ashman*	5-11/165	13.1	6.4	0.5	46.4	71.4	25.0
G	Edwin Young*	6-2/190	7.0	2.3	3.3	43.8	71.9	32.3

Schedule

N20-22 Maui Classic	D23 at Louisville	J25 at St. Bonaventure	F24 at Temple
N29 Cincinnati	D30 Marquette	J27 Fordham	F28 at Fordham
D2 Marshall	J2 Siena	J30 at Xavier	M4 Xavier
D6 at Miami of Ohio	J6 Duquesne	F3 at Duquesne	
D9 Prairie View A&M	J11 Temple	F6 Massachusetts	
D16 at St. Louis	J13 at St. Joseph's	F10 at Rhode Island	
D19 Old Dominion	J18 at Massachusetts	F17 George Washington	

4. Temple

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: Aside from centers Kevin Lyde and Ron Rollerson, the Owls have precious little experience. That is bad news, because returnees Rouldra Thomas, Greg Jefferson and Mamadou Cellou Barry aren't ready for any serious responsibility and freshman Carlton Aaron isn't likely to be eligible. On the good-news front, coach John Chaney expects big things from athletic junior wing Alex Wesby, who can shoot but is inconsistent.

BACK COURT: The Owls took a big hit here, with the graduation of point Pepe Sanchez and Mark Karcher's decision to leave early for the NBA. But they got a break when the NCAA granted former partial qualifier Quincy Wadley another year of eligibility. Wadley likely will team with junior Lynn Greer, although neither is a pure point. Both, however, can handle the ball and are able to pile on the points. So, too, can Ronald Blackshear, who sat out last season as a partial qualifier. The question is whether he will play the requisite defense.

KEY NEWCOMER: Blackshear must be consistent at both ends, or Temple will have no reliable backcourt depth. The Owls had expected to have freshman Brian Polk in the rotation, but he didn't qualify academically, so Blackshear becomes a vital cog. He can shoot and penetrate, but the year off could hurt him.

STRATEGY: If you thought Temple focused on defense before, wait until this season. It will try to dictate tempo inside, with Lyde and Rollerson, and preserve its guards, who will play megaminutes. Its vaunted zone will mystify some, but the question is whether the short rotation can stay healthy and foul-free long enough to subdue the usual collection of beasts on the schedule.

Owls

Coach: John Chaney (407-166, 18 years; 632-225 overall, 28 years; 20-16 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 27-6. Atlantic 10 East: 14-2/1st. Lost to Seton Hall in NCAA East second round.

Last league title: 2000 (A-10 East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.

Site: Philadelphia.

Website: www.owlsports.com

Home court: The Liacouras Center (10,206).

*1999-2000 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
44	F	Mamadou C. Barry	6-8/234	Jr.	0.3	0.4	0.1	12.5	100.0	—
11	G	Ronald Blackshear	6-4/190	So.	Sat out last season to academically qualify.					
14	G	Lynn Greer	6-1/170	Jr.	12.3	2.6	1.9	42.1	81.7	40.1
1	F	Greg Jefferson	6-5/205	So.	0.9	0.6	0.1	17.4	66.7	0.0
42	C	Kevin Lyde*	6-9/240	Jr.	6.4	7.6	0.9	54.5	46.2	—
30	C	Ronald Rollerson	6-10/290	Jr.	2.2	3.2	0.2	52.8	61.9	—
40	F	Rouldra Thomas	6-8/210	Sr.	1.5	0.8	0.5	50.0	14.3	50.0
33	G	Quincy Wadley*	6-4/200	Sr.	12.8	3.9	1.7	38.6	80.2	35.0
23	F	Alex Wesby	6-6/190	Jr.	3.4	1.0	0.2	40.5	50.0	31.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F/C	Lamont Barnes*	6-10/240	9.0	5.0	0.8	48.4	64.0	0.0
F	Mark Karcher*	6-5/215	15.8	4.6	2.2	37.8	56.9	34.9
G	Pepe Sanchez*	6-4/195	5.6	5.5	8.0	32.4	78.6	33.8
F/G	Keaton Sanders	6-6/225	3.5	3.8	0.3	42.2	59.7	26.7

Schedule

N13 Delaware*	D31 Cleveland State	J27 Massachusetts	F28 La Salle
N17 at Memphis	J4 at La Salle	F1 at Duquesne	M3 at George Washington
N30 at Miami of Ohio	J6 at Villanova	F4 Rhode Island	*Preseason NIT
D2 Duke	J11 at Dayton	F8 George Washington	
D6 Villanova	J14 Fordham	F10 at Xavier	
D14 Wisconsin	J16 St. Joseph's	F13 at St. Joseph's	
D21 Wake Forest	J20 Cincinnati	F17 at Massachusetts	
	J23 at Fordham	F24 Dayton	

5. George Washington

NATIONAL RANK

56

FRONT COURT: The Colonials finished with a minus-4.1 rebounding margin and allowed opponents to shoot 47.3 percent from the field. Think this area needed an upgrade? It will get one after first semester if transfer Attila Cosby, formerly of New Mexico and Pittsburgh, becomes eligible. Cosby will join Jaason Smith, Antxon Iturbe and Patrick Ngongba on what should be an improved front line. How big the improvement is will determine whether GW is a tournament team—and in which tournament.

BACK COURT: SirValiant Brown, last year's freshman sensation, is bound to see his overall numbers sag, but it will be because of the team's improved depth. Point man Bernard Barrow is a steady distributor and a defensive hound who will get help from freshman Darnell Miller. Also on the wing will be senior Mike King, sophomore Chris Monroe and rookie Greg Collucci.

KEY NEWCOMER: Cosby is a perfect fit for the Colonials. He isn't going to overpower many people, but he doesn't have to in coach Tom Penders' high-speed system. If he can block shots, finish close to the rack and grab six or seven rebounds a night, he will be a great addition.

STRATEGY: The Colonials try to overwhelm opponents with speed, causing turnovers, creating easy baskets and taking so many shots that it is nearly impossible to reach 85 points. Last year, however, opponents often reached 90. That should change this season, particularly if Cosby is as good as advertised, and Iturbe, Ngongba and Smith provide consistent interior production. They don't have to worry much about scoring—the perimeter guys will take care of that.

Colonials

Coach: Tom Penders (35-23, 2 years; 513-342 overall, 29 years; 12-10 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-15. Atlantic 10 West: 9-7/T2nd.

Last league title: 1999 (A-10 West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Website: www.gwu.edu

Home court: Charles E. Smith Center (5,000).

*1999-2000 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
22	F	Arthur Andrews	6-7/181	So.	1.1	1.2	0.4	29.4	33.3	20.0
12	G	Bernard Barrow*	5-8/142	Sr.	9.1	3.3	5.2	35.0	46.3	26.7
13	G	SirValiant Brown*	6-1/158	So.	24.6	3.3	2.1	33.2	81.0	26.4
30	F	Marquin Chandler	6-7/210	Fr.	Averaged 22.0 ppg as high school senior.					
34	G	Greg Collucci	6-3/185	Fr.	Known for sharpshooting ability.					
	F	Attila Cosby	6-9/210	Jr.	Did not play at New Mexico after leaving Pitt.					
15	F	Antxon Iturbe*	6-8/235	Sr.	4.1	5.4	1.2	56.1	63.8	—
10	G/F	Valery Khamenia	6-8/232	Sr.	3.5	0.4	0.3	35.5	72.7	47.4
5	G	Mike King*	6-4/179	Sr.	12.1	5.5	1.5	45.9	60.0	25.7
14	G	Darnell Miller	6-4/195	Fr.	Will back up at point guard.					
4	G	Chris Monroe*	6-3/225	So.	16.3	6.8	1.6	44.6	74.7	30.9
35	F	Patrick Ngongba	6-8/238	Sr.	3.4	3.9	0.1	38.5	50.0	—
3	C	Albert Roma	7-0/228	Jr.	1.5	1.4	0.3	43.8	76.9	—
31	F	Jaason Smith	6-8/200	Jr.	6.1	3.1	0.4	51.2	53.8	45.5

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Francisco de Miranda	6-9/235	6.2	4.1	0.4	59.1	55.6	—

Schedule

N18 Texas A&M	J3 at UNC Charlotte	F3 at Xavier	M3 Temple
N20 Old Dominion	J6 at Massachusetts	F8 at Temple	
N24-25 R. Auerbach Trn.	J10 St. Joseph's	F11 Duquesne	
N28 at South Florida	J13 La Salle	F14 Rhode Island	
D2-3 BB&T Classic	J16 Xavier	F17 at Dayton	
D9 Richmond	J20 at Fordham	F21 Fordham	
D27-30 Rainbow Classic	J23 at Duquesne	F24 Massachusetts	
	J27 St. Bonaventure	F28 St. Bonaventure	

6. St. Joseph's

NATIONAL RANK

90

FRONTCOURT: The Hawks lost their top front-line scorer, Andre Howard, but they should be stronger inside thanks to junior forward Bill Phillips, a great passer with inside-outside scoring ability, and sophomore center Alexandre Sazonov, who redshirted

last season to gain strength. Junior Damian Reid was expected to play this summer with the Canadian Olympic team. Expect swingman Frank Wilkins to hit from the wing and baseline.

BACKCOURT: Coach Phil Martelli has stopped gushing over freshman Jameer Nelson, but he will not hesitate to give Nelson the ball and let him play. Another rookie, defensive specialist Tyrone Barley, will back Nelson. Off-guard is manned by junior Marvin O'Connor, who had some great nights last year but shot only 40 percent from the field and was out of control at times. Senior Na'im Crenshaw suffers from some of the same problems but can hit the 3 and is a fine passer.

KEY NEWCOMER: Nelson gives the Hawks something they have lacked since Rashid Bey was a junior—a true point man. He can penetrate, hit the midrange jumper and distribute. He will play 30 minutes a night and give the team stability at a key position.

STRATEGY: The Hawks had been one of the league's best rebounding teams throughout Martelli's tenure, but that wasn't the case last year, particularly in league play. They still want to run, but they need their wings to commit to rebounding before releasing. That should be easier if Martelli increases the amount of zone his team plays, something he has considered. This season's squad will be better than last year's, but the real payoff will come next season when everyone should return.

Hawks

Coach: Phil Martelli (81-71, 5 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 13-16. Atlantic 10 East: 7-9/T3rd

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Philadelphia.

Website: www.sjuhawks.com

Home court: Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse (2,200).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	Tyrone Barley	6-0/185	Fr.	Known for playing tenacious defense.					
34	F	John Bryant	6-7/210	Fr.	Will battle Tooles for time at small forward.					
20	G	Na'im Crenshaw*	6-5/180	Sr.	11.7	3.9	3.0	37.8	73.3	35.6
2	G	Jeff Miller	6-4/190	Fr.	Averaged 19.0 ppg as high school senior.					
14	G	Jameer Nelson	6-1/180	Fr.	Chose St. Joe's over league rival Temple.					
11	G	Marvin O'Connor*	6-4/190	Jr.	16.6	4.4	2.6	40.0	73.6	35.4
24	F	Bill Phillips	6-10/240	Jr.	9.1	5.4	2.0	50.3	83.8	39.1
25	C	Damian Reid*	6-9/240	Jr.	7.6	6.3	0.5	51.5	64.6	----
51	C	Alexandre Sazonov	7-1/235	So.	Redshirted last year to work on conditioning.					
54	F	Shamon Tooles	6-5/210	Fr.	Will battle Bryant for time at small forward.					
21	F	Frank Wilkins	6-9/200	Sr.	3.6	1.5	0.3	32.0	62.9	28.3
31	G	Erick Woods	6-5/190	Sr.	2.4	1.3	0.5	36.7	71.4	21.1

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Tim Brown	6-3/160	8.1	2.1	3.3	41.7	67.3	39.8
F	Andre Howard*	6-7/220	9.5	6.6	1.9	44.1	73.5	0.00
G	Larry Jennings*	6-1/175	Transferred to Albany.					

Schedule

N17 S. Carolina State*	D17 at DePaul	J 13 Dayton	F13 Temple
N18 Western Carolina*	D21 at Western Kentucky	J 16 at Temple	F18 Fordham
N19 Vanderbilt*	D27 Pennsylvania	J 20 at Xavier	F21 at Dayton
N26 at Colorado	J 3 Duquesne	J 24 Rhode Island	F25 at Duquesne
N29 Old Dominion	J 6 at Rhode Island	J 27 Pennsylvania	F27 Massachusetts
D6 at Rutgers	J 10 at George Washington	F1 St. Bonaventure	M3 at La Salle
D9 Drexel	Washington	F7 Xavier	*Nashville, Tenn.
		F10 at St. Bonaventure	

7. Fordham

NATIONAL RANK

93

FRONTCOURT: The Rams' biggest weakness last season likely will be a significant strength this year, thanks to some big-time recruiting by second-year coach Bob Hill. Freshmen forwards Liberto Tetimadingar and Jeff McMillan may find their way into

the starting five, and for good reason. Tetimadingar can run, shoot and post well enough to draw double-teams, and McMillan specializes in rebounding and outlet passes. Junior Duke Freeman-McKamey blossomed last season into an active interior scorer and rebounder. Depth, however, remains a problem. Hill was counting on freshman forward Cori Spencer for major minutes, but he will miss the season after tearing an ACL.

BACKCOURT: Those used to seeing Bevon Robin and Jason Harris as the Rams' starting pair may be in for a shock. If freshman Michael Haynes qualifies academically, he likely will step right into the lineup, displacing one of the veterans. "Haynes is a stone player," Hill says. "There's nothing he can't do." Still, Robin is capable at both positions, with Harris a step behind.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Fordham posted a minus-1.9 rebounding margin last season and saw players foul out 22 times. Tetimadingar is important because of his skills and size (6-8, 205), and the Rams need McMillan (6-8, 250) inside to add defensive support and rebounding.

STRATEGY: Hill has big plans for the Rams, well beyond last year's flirtation with a .500 record. Expect this year's club to run more, hit the boards more effectively and perhaps earn an NIT invitation. The real payoff will come next season, when Spencer returns and another recruiting class arrives.

Rams

Coach: Bob Hill (14-15, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 14-15. Atlantic 10 East: 7-9/5th.

Last league title: 1994 (tie, Patriot).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Bronx, N.Y.

Website: www.fordham.edu

Home court: Rose Hill Gym (3,470).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3PT FG%
12	G	Ken Aponte	6-2/185	Sr.	0.3	0.4	0.0	33.3	—	0.0
24	F	Steve Canal	6-6/236	Jr.	3.9	4.0	0.5	44.8	78.8	0.0
20	F	Chris Duckrey	6-6/200	Fr.	0.4	0.0	0.4	16.7	—	0.0
3	G	Jason Harris*	5-9/175	Sr.	15.2	2.8	2.3	40.1	79.5	39.1
	F	Michael Haynes	6-7/210	Fr.	May challenge for spot in starting backcourt.					
5	F	Teremun Johnson*	6-6/205	Jr.	8.7	5.0	4.3	44.1	59.5	35.9
33	F	Arseni Kuchinsky	6-7/210	Sr.	5.2	2.2	1.2	43.5	72.7	40.5
42	F	Duke F.-McKamey	6-9/215	Jr.	11.0	8.0	0.8	55.1	71.0	—
	F	Jeff McMillan	6-8/250	Fr.	Averaged 17.0 ppg as high school senior.					
15	G	Bevon Robin*	6-2/200	Sr.	15.7	3.9	3.6	41.0	79.2	36.4
	F	L. Tetimadingar	6-8/205	Fr.	Can shoot and run the floor.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3PT FG%
G	Scott Harmatuk*	6-4/180	6.8	1.6	1.8	37.5	88.3	37.7
F	Alejandro Olivares	6-8/223	Left school.					
C	John Pugh*	6-10/220	3.6	2.9	0.3	43.2	67.5	—

Schedule

N25 Iona	J3 Xavier	J31 at La Salle	F28 Dayton
D5 at Manhattan	J9 St. Bonaventure	F3 at Massachusetts	M3 Rhode Island
D9 St. John's	J14 at Temple	F10 La Salle	
D20 Holy Cross	J17 at Rhode Island	F14 Duquesne	
D23 at Siena	J20 George Washington	F18 at St. Joseph's	
D29-30 Cable Car Class.	J23 Temple	F21 at George Wash.	
	J27 at Dayton	F24 at St. Bonaventure	

8. St. Bonaventure

NATIONAL RANK

103

FRONT COURT: There could be some problems here. With four-year starter Caswell Cyrus gone, senior forward Peter Van Paassen must carry the load in the middle. Van Paassen is good, but he is no meal ticket. That means forwards Vidal Massiah and

Robert Cheeks must switch from role-player mode and become consistent contributors. There is no guarantee that will happen. Perhaps the arrival of 6-8, 265-pound freshman Quadir Habeeb will help. It had better, or the Bonnies will take a beating inside.

BACK COURT: The loss of starters Tim Winn and David Messiah Capers could make the news even worse outside. Holdover J.R. Bremer has played some point during his two years, but he is more of a scorer. That puts big pressure on freshman Marques Green to step in immediately and run the show. Off-guard will be manned by sophomore Patricio Prato, who wowed fans with his long-range accuracy last year, and senior transfer Kevin Houston, who has a reputation for scoring.

KEY NEWCOMER: Green, 5-7, is a good penetrator and fine finisher. He will need to prove he can handle the team quickly, so Bremer can be used more at off-guard, where he belongs.

STRATEGY: The Bonnies want to win with good defense and an effective inside-outside game. That will be difficult this season, with the potential for inexperience at the point and without proven interior weapons beyond Van Paassen. Last year's NCAA Tournament appearance came courtesy of Winn, Cyrus and Capers, with assists from Van Paassen, Prato and Bremer. It is time for the understudies to step up. St. Bonaventure will be good, but any postseason play will be of the NIT variety.

Bonnies

Coach: Jim Baron (114-119, 8 years; 188-190 overall, 13 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 21-10. Atlantic 10 East: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest first round.

Last league title: 1983 (tie, A-10 West).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Olean, N.Y.

Website: www.GoBonnies.com

Home court: Reilly Center (6,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	J.R. Bremer	6-2/190	Jr.	9.7	3.0	2.1	43.4	61.2	37.5
10	F	Robert Cheeks	6-6/190	Jr.	1.9	1.9	0.2	52.6	54.8	0.0
24	F	Bob Dziengeleski	6-5/215	Sr.	0.3	0.6	0.2	50.0	—	0.0
	G	Marques Green	5-7/150	Fr.	Averaged 21.0 ppg as high school senior.					
	F	Quadir Habeeb	6-8/265	Fr.	Attended prep school after signing in 1998.					
15	G/F	Kevin Houston	6-4/215	Sr.	7.1 ppg for Miami (Fla.) in '98-99					
5	F	Vidal Massiah	6-6/225	Jr.	2.5	2.3	0.3	37.8	59.1	0.0
20	G	Patricio Prato*	6-4/200	So.	8.7	3.6	1.9	46.3	73.5	37.1
44	F	Elton Ruddock	6-8/235	Jr.	2.0	0.3	0.3	100.0	—	—
30	G	Eric Siegrist	6-3/200	So.	2.3	2.4	0.8	36.2	60.0	32.4
35	F	Andy Stinson	6-6/215	Jr.	1.0	1.0	0.5	40.0	—	—
33	F/C	Peter Van Paassen*	6-11/265	Sr.	10.1	7.1	0.9	52.8	67.7	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	David Messiah Capers*	6-3/210	10.9	3.8	1.8	42.4	58.1	40.4
C	Caswell Cyrus*	6-9/220	12.0	6.6	0.6	49.8	61.7	—
G	Tim Winn*	5-10/175	13.6	3.8	4.2	38.8	78.0	32.0

Schedule

N17-18 Hisc. Sch/Ship Tr.	D30 Canisius	J27 at George Wash.	F24 Fordham
N25 UNC Charlotte	J3 at St. Louis	F1 at St. Joseph's	F28 George Washington
N29 at Kent	J6 at Temple	F3 at La Salle	M3 at Massachusetts
O2 Florida International	J9 at Fordham	F7 Duquesne	
D6 at Niagara	J13 Massachusetts	F10 St. Joseph's	
D12 Siena	J16 at Cleveland State	F14 La Salle	
D21 Toledo	J21 Rhode Island	F17 at Duquesne	
	J25 Dayton	F21 at Xavier	

9. La Salle

NATIONAL RANK

137

FRONT COURT: After taking a beating on the boards last year, the Explorers were hoping a pair of newcomers—Joel-Jean Baptiste and Ramel Allen—would make a difference. Baptiste just might; Allen didn't meet the academic standards for transfer. Count on

junior wing Rasual Butler to score in bushels, particularly with guard Donnie Carr gone. Expect another year of rebounding and personal fouls from 6-8 senior James Jordan, while 6-11 classmate Garrett Bragg provides a big body but little offense.

BACK COURT: The exit of Carr, La Salle's most valuable player last season, means Butler could play off-guard, next to strong distributor Julian Blanks and his wayward shot. Outstanding freshman defender Rasheed Quadri could earn a starting berth. Look for freshman Sean Mulholland to have an impact as a backup point guard. It is imperative that Blanks becomes more of a scoring threat, or Butler will be dogged by multiple defenders.

KEY NEWCOMER: Baptiste is a vital cog, as the Explorers have been starved for a legitimate inside presence and need someone to score from in close. Baptiste can't be considered a savior, but if he brings 25 minutes of solid post play every night, La Salle's perimeter game will be that much more effective.

STRATEGY: La Salle wants to run and score points, but it must remember that rebounding and defense are important, too. Coach Speedy Morris' challenge is to persuade Butler that scoring 25 points a night and letting your man get the same amount doesn't help anybody. With two years remaining on his contract and no extension in sight, Morris needs success now. He will need to hope a flirtation with .500 is good enough.

Explorers

Coach: Speedy Morris (226-186, 14 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 11-17. Atlantic 10 West: 5-11/5th.

Last league title: 1990 (MAAC South).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Philadelphia.

Website: www.lasalle.edu

Home court: Tom Gola Arena (4,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Joel-Jean Baptiste	6-9/250	Fr.	Paris native expected to bolster interior play.					
5	G	Julian Blanks*	6-2/185	Jr.	7.8	3.6	4.8	34.5	66.0	28.1
52	C	Garrett Bragg	6-11/275	Sr.	2.2	2.5	0.3	35.1	66.7	—
45	F	Rasual Butler*	6-7/195	Jr.	18.4	5.3	1.6	39.9	81.7	38.1
	F	John Clark	6-5/210	So.	Redshirted last season.					
11	G	Dwayne Jones	6-4/185	So.	0.8	0.4	0.0	14.3	60.0	0.0
34	F	James Jordan*	6-8/234	Sr.	4.3	4.6	0.4	47.0	44.6	0.0
	G	Sean Mulholland	6-1/175	Fr.	Will back up at point guard.					
41	F	Mike Pidhinski	6-7/210	So.	0.7	0.7	0.0	33.3	33.3	—
	F	Rasheed Quadri	6-3/180	Fr.	Tough defender could crack starting lineup.					
25	F	Victor Thomas*	6-7/200	Sr.	16.2	8.7	1.4	39.9	81.7	38.1
35	F	Anwar Wilson	6-8/196	Jr.	1.0	3.6	0.3	31.1	11.1	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Donnie Carr*	6-3/212	17.9	3.2	4.0	37.5	78.5	37.2

Schedule

N17-18 Sooner Invit.	D18 Drexel	J27 at Rhode Island	F28 at Temple
N22 at Central Conn.	D28-29 Golden Bear Cls.	J31 Fordham	M3 St. Joseph's
N25 at UAB	J4 Temple	F3 St. Bonaventure	
D2 at Seton Hall	J7 at Xavier	F6 Rhode Island	
D7 at Pennsylvania	J13 at George Wash.	F10 at Fordham	
D10 Northwestern	J17 Duquesne	F14 at St. Bonaventure	
D15 Villanova	J21 at Dayton	F20 at Duquesne	
	J25 Massachusetts	F25 Xavier	

10. Duquesne

NATIONAL RANK

203

FRONTCOURT: There is some potential here, provided everyone participates for a whole season. That wasn't the case last year, when center and transfer Simon Ogunlesi wasn't eligible until second semester, and Aaron Lovelace missed 26 games with foot

injuries. Ogunlesi brings bulk and rebounding, and Lovelace is a versatile swingman. There isn't much depth, which means newcomers Jack May and Jon Pawlak must be ready to step in, particularly on the backboards and defense.

BACKCOURT: The Dukes lost Devin Montgomery because of academic shortcomings. Either 6-4 senior Courtney Wallace, a scorer, or 5-11 freshman J-S Esposito, a pure distributor, will man the point. Sophomore Kevin Forney and seniors Charles Stanfield and Shawn Tann probably will fight it out at off-guard. Tann is a little stronger from long range, while Forney can get inside more effectively. Stanfield does a little of everything.

KEY NEWCOMER: Though he has consistently produced, Wallace isn't a point guard. Coach Darelle Porter doesn't mind using a combo on occasion, but if Esposito plays point, Wallace can play off-guard, which gives the team more options. Esposito is fairly quick with the ball and looks for his teammates first.

STRATEGY: The Dukes started fast last season and actually spent some time atop the West Division. But a 10-game losing streak stopped the fun. Porter believes the program is heading in the right direction, but he needs swingman Wayne Smith to become more efficient and choose his shots better and needs nightly production from Ogunlesi. The guard line is solid but not good enough to push the Dukes into the league's first division.

DATA

Dukes

Coach: Darelle Porter (14-43, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 9-20. Atlantic 10 West: 4-12/6th.

Last league title: 1981 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1977.

Site: Pittsburgh.

Website: www.duq.edu

Home court: A.J. Palumbo Center (6,200).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
42	F/C	Chris Clark	6-10/225	So.	0.5	1.0	0.1	14.3	25.0	16.7
13	G	J-S Esposito	5-11/165	Fr.	Averaged 25 ppg as high school senior.					
20	G	Kevin Forney	6-4/180	So.	6.8	1.5	0.8	40.3	84.2	29.4
24	G	Brandon Gilmore	5-7/175	So.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
23	G	Jamal Hunter	6-5/185	Sr.	2.6	0.9	0.5	30.8	50.0	15.0
40	F	Aaron Lovelace	6-5/210	Jr.	4.3	2.0	0.7	36.4	100.0	100.0
44	F	Jack May	6-8/210	So.	Sat out last season as non-qualifier.					
21	G/F	Brad Midgley	6-5/215	So.	4.3	1.9	0.2	42.6	54.5	28.6
0	C	Simon Ogunlesi	6-10/250	Sr.	6.1	6.2	0.2	51.2	48.8	—
33	F	Jon Pawlak	6-9/210	Fr.	Averaged 23.1 ppg as high school senior.					
5	G/F	Wayne Smith*	6-7/215	Jr.	16.7	7.0	2.6	37.7	70.6	34.2
34	G	Charles Stanfield*	6-4/190	Sr.	7.0	3.8	0.8	45.0	65.0	24.1
22	G	Shawn Tann	6-4/205	Sr.	6.8	1.5	0.6	36.4	71.4	35.1
4	G	Courtney Wallace*	6-4/210	Sr.	12.9	4.8	2.6	39.7	81.0	31.5

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Devin Montgomery*	6-0/175	Left school.					
C/F	Devone Stephenson*	6-7/200	4.9	5.7	0.1	43.6	58.8	0.0

Schedule

N19 North Carolina A&T	D12 Ohio University	J23 George Washington	F20 La Salle
N21 UNC Wilmington	D20 Pittsburgh	J27 Xavier	F25 St. Joseph's
N24-26 Hawaii Pac. Cl.	D30 at Rice	F1 Temple	F28 at Rhode Island
N28 West Virginia	J3 at St. Joseph's	F3 Dayton	
D2 at Bowling Green	J6 at Dayton	F7 at St. Bonaventure	
D5 at Buffalo	J10 Rhode Island	F11 at George Wash.	
D8-9 Boilermaker Invit.	J17 at La Salle	F14 at Fordham	
	J20 at Massachusetts	F17 St. Bonaventure	

11. Rhode Island

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: The Rams were abused nightly inside last season, so coach Jerry DeGregorio set out to fortify the area. He didn't do that bad. The healthy return of 6-9 rebounder Tiger Womack is a good start, as is the arrival of athletic 6-9 freshman Andre

Scott. Expect Scott to start next to Womack. Pencil-thin junior Andrew Wafula remains a project.

BACKCOURT: DeGregorio can't say enough good things about 6-0 transfer Dinno Daniels. The junior will run the point and allow the wings to concentrate on scoring. That will be good news for junior Zach Marbury, who struggled with the lead role last year. He'll play off-guard and concentrate on improving his wayward shooting. That leaves athletic Tavorris Bell and Tip Vinson to fight it out for the other wing spot, with sophomore Brian Woodward, a partial qualifier last year, expected to bring firepower off the bench.

KEY NEWCOMER: The Rams were last in the conference in assist-to-turnover ratio last year, so Daniels' arrival is perfectly timed. He had 89 assists as a freshman at Memphis and should bring considerable—and much-needed—stability to the backcourt.

STRATEGY: The Rams would like to run. They would like to press. Most of all, they would like to avoid starting games down 20-0. "The goal this year is to compete," DeGregorio says. "Last year, we were not competitive." And how. The team lost 12 games by 20 or more points, one by 30-plus and two by at least 40. This season's Rams will be better (how could they be worse?), but don't get carried away—if this team sniffs .500, there should be a celebration.

DATA

Rams

Coach: Jerry DeGregorio (5-25, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 5-25. Atlantic 10 East: 2-14/6th.

Last league title: 1981 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Kingston, R.I.

Website: www.gorhody.com

Home court: Providence Civic Center (12,641); Keaney Gymnasium (3,385).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
14	F	Tavorris Bell*	6-6/210	Jr.	14.3	6.7	1.9	53.0	57.6	35.6
	G	Dinno Daniels	6-0/175	Jr.	Transferred from Tyler (Texas) Junior College.					
	F	Delonte Holland	6-7/210	Fr.	Will battle for starting spot.					
32	G	Mike Jilling	6-4/190	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
33	G	Zach Marbury*	6-3/185	Jr.	15.7	4.0	3.3	39.5	65.2	29.7
	C	Andre Scott	6-9/225	Fr.	Maryland native was a fall signee.					
55	G	Howard Smith	6-0/175	So.	2.7	1.7	1.7	34.0	59.1	28.6
13	G	Tip Vinson*	6-4/190	Jr.	10.3	2.7	2.1	34.5	74.6	35.7
4	C	Andrew Wafula	6-10/195	Jr.	3.0	2.6	0.2	41.8	62.5	0.0
21	F	Tiger Womack*	6-9/210	Sr.	6.5	6.5	1.2	28.6	70.8	36.4
	G	Brian Woodward	6-3/180	So.	Sat out last season as partial qualifier.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Luther Clay*	6-9/225	12.4	8.0	0.8	44.5	60.6	—
F	Justin Henry	6-5/252	1.9	4.2	1.2	29.3	50.0	—

Schedule

N18 Fairfield	D16 Northeastern	J21 at St. Bonaventure	F17 at Xavier
N20 at Tulsa	D26 at Connecticut	J24 at St. Joseph's	F20 at Massachusetts
N22-25 Great Alaska Sh.	D28 Siena	J27 La Salle	F28 Duquesne
D2 at Providence	D30 Hartford	J30 Massachusetts	M3 at Fordham
D6 at Akron	J6 St. Joseph's	F4 at Temple	
D9 Valparaiso	J10 at Duquesne	F6 at La Salle	
D11 Yale	J14 Xavier	F10 Dayton	
	J17 Fordham	F14 George Washington	

Western Athletic

ASCENDING: TCU. The Horned Frogs lost their leading scorer and rebounder from a year ago in Marquise Gainous, but their habit of dumping the ball to him down low stripped a couple of the gears out of Billyball. Look for speedy point guard Edwin Daniels to get TCU's high-octane offense running again. Perhaps more important than Daniels' offensive game is his ballhawking on defense, a prerequisite in Billy Tubbs' system.

DESCENDING: Tulsa. To be fair, the Golden Hurricane isn't so much a descend-

ing team as one that will be hard-pressed to match last season's magical run. Tulsa should win 20 games and make a run at another NCAA Tournament berth, but another 32 wins and Elite Eight appearance aren't in the cards following the loss of senior leaders Eric Coley, Brandon Kurtz and Tony Heard, as well as coach Bill Self. Self, who resigned to take the Illinois job, built Tulsa in his image, and though Buzz Peterson is another hot coaching commodity, he is selling the holdovers on a new system. It will take some time.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Courtney Alexander, Fresno State. Swingman Chris Jefferies gets the thankless task of replacing Alexander, an NBA first-round pick. Like Alexander, who transferred from Virginia to Fresno State, Jefferies transferred to Fresno State, leaving Arkansas after one season to return to his hometown. Alexander was the leading scorer in Division I last season (24.8 ppg). The same isn't expected from Jefferies ... yet.

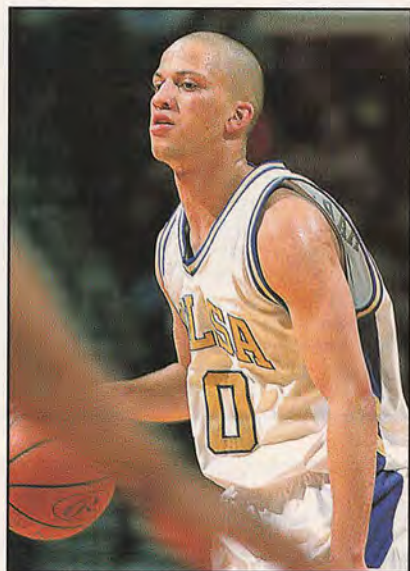
MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Darnell Williams, San Jose State. A natural forward, Williams—at 6-6, 197—shouldn't be able to do what he did at center last season. Playing against bigger bodies every night, he averaged 11.7 points and 8.6 rebounds.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Jeryl Sasser, SMU. Sasser's athleticism alone makes him one of the conference's best players, but his game does have flaws. Poor shot selection contributed to 37.8-percent shooting, and Sasser failed to carry the Mustangs during their late-season swoon. Off-court troubles had Sasser considering early entry into the NBA, but after testing the waters, he was advised to stay in school.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Billy Tubbs, TCU. Tubbs resurrected TCU basketball six years ago, but after a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 1998, the Horned Frogs reached the NIT in '99 and were left out of the postseason last year. Tubbs has two years left on his contract, and after the coming season the Horned Frogs are off to the more prestigious Conference USA. Anything short of a trip to the NCAAs this season and Tubbs might not be coaching the Horned Frogs in their new league.

BEST BETS: A sweat-soaked Jason Rabedeaux, Texas-El Paso's coach, will accidentally trip a player during one of his sideline rants. ... A Fresno State player will quit sometime during the season. ...

Peterson will lead Tulsa to 20 wins—and the school will reward him with a new contract in an effort not to lose him to another program. ... At least four WAC teams will qualify for postseason play.



HURRICANE WARNING: Greg Harrington and Tulsa will be hard-pressed to match last season's success.

ODDS AND ENDS: Two Nevada players boast NBA relatives. Terrance Green is the nephew of NBA ironman A.C. Green, and Adrian McCullough is the cousin of 76ers guard Eric Snow. ... TCU post Derrick Davenport shattered the school's single-season record with 96 blocks last season. The previous record was 69, set by Kurt Thomas in 1993-94. ... Texas-El Paso's Brandon Wolfram needs 590 points to become the school's all-time leading scorer, a spot held by Antoine Gillespie (1,706 points). Wolfram scored 580 points last season. ... Fresno State makes its first appearance in the Hall of Fame Tip Off Classic against North Carolina State on November 23 in Springfield, Mass. ... Hawaii has two players from Yugoslavia (Bosko Radovic and Predrag Savovic), two from Lithuania (Mindaugas Burneika and Nerijus Puida) and one from Israel (Haim Shimonovic). ... Texas-El Paso lost three one-point games last season. ... Nevada coach Trent Johnson has almost totally revamped the Wolfpack program. There is only one player remaining from the roster he inherited two years ago.

By ART GARCIA

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Predictions

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Southern Methodist* | 6. Hawaii |
| 2. Texas Christian* | 7. San Jose State |
| 3. Fresno State | 8. Rice |
| 4. Tulsa | 9. Nevada |
| 5. Texas-El Paso | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-WAC

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jeryl Sasser, SMU	6-6	200	Sr.
G	Demetrius Porter, Fresno State	6-0	170	Sr.
C	Melvin Ely, Fresno State	6-9	240	Sr.
F	Brandon Wolfram, Texas-El Paso	6-9	230	Sr.
F/G	Willie Davis, SMU	6-6	230	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G/F	Ryan Carroll, TCU	6-4	190	Sr.
G	Mike Wilks, Rice	5-11	180	Sr.
F	Troy Ostler, Hawaii	6-10	205	Sr.
F	David Shelton, Tulsa	6-6	230	Sr.
F	Roy Smallwood, Texas-El Paso	6-6	190	So.

Player of the Year

Brandon Wolfram, F, Texas-El Paso

Newcomer of the Year

Greedy Daniels, G, TCU

Honor Roll

- Best shooter: Ryan Carroll, TCU
- Best rebounder: Willie Davis, SMU
- Best playmaker: Demetrius Porter, Fresno State
- Best defender: Melvin Ely, Fresno State
- Best leaper: Derrick Davenport, TCU
- Best under 6-0: Mike Wilks, Rice
- Best over 7-0 (almost): Troy Ostler (6-10), Hawaii
- Most versatile: Jeryl Sasser, SMU
- Most flamboyant: Predrag Savovic, Hawaii
- Best NBA prospect: Brandon Wolfram, Texas-El Paso

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Tulsa	12	2	32	5	14	1	18	4
Fresno State	11	3	24	10	12	4	12	6
Southern Methodist	9	5	21	9	13	2	8	7
Texas Christian	8	6	18	14	12	5	6	9
San Jose State	6	8	15	15	10	3	5	12
Hawaii	5	9	17	12	15	4	2	8
Texas-El Paso	4	10	13	15	11	6	2	9
Rice	1	13	5	22	5	7	0	15

Ranking the Recruiting

1. Fresno State: Two D-I transfers, including potential star Chris Jefferies. Good balance—two freshmen and a JC transfer.
2. Tulsa: Jack Ingram and J.T. Ivie, a pair of 6-10 signees, will try to replace Brandon Kurtz. Also added solid PG prospect Jason Parker.
3. TCU: A rare freshmen-heavy class will net several contributors, but JC C Marlon Dumont will have the biggest impact.
4. UTEP: Hauled in nice mix—three JC transfers, three freshmen and two transfers. Expect three newcomers to start.
5. Hawaii: Class includes three international players that add size and two others who will battle for open PG spot.
6. San Jose State: Needed size and experience and got it with an eight-man class that includes seven JCs. Probable starter in C David Granucci.
7. Nevada: The overhaul continues with six new faces, led by F/C Dennis Williams.
8. SMU: Small class might include the next Jeryl Sasser—or at least Quinton Ross—in freshman swingman Kris Lowe.
9. Rice: Transfer Omar-Seli Mance is set for prime role. Three freshmen round out class.

TEAM STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
TCU	32	45.2	76.5	38.0	39.8	19.0	9.2	6.4	15.4	87.9
Fresno State	33	47.1	70.3	35.0	38.8	19.4	8.3	4.8	14.8	83.1
Tulsa	33	47.7	70.9	34.9	37.2	17.7	11.9	4.8	15.8	81.2
SMU	29	41.0	65.2	30.7	43.2	14.2	9.4	3.7	12.8	77.7
UTEP	28	48.0	68.8	36.2	35.1	16.3	7.1	3.1	14.8	77.1
Hawaii	29	48.2	70.7	36.0	36.8	17.9	6.9	3.7	18.2	76.2
San Jose State	30	41.8	58.4	32.3	36.6	10.6	4.6	2.9	13.7	59.9
Rice	27	37.5	69.3	29.4	37.7	11.5	5.6	2.6	18.9	57.6

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3P%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
San Jose State	30	39.6	68.1	30.2	32.2	13.1	5.9	3.3	12.8	59.7
Tulsa	33	39.5	66.4	32.8	35.5	11.3	7.6	2.7	20.9	62.8
Rice	27	41.6	67.4	33.4	35.3	15.8	5.7	4.7	13.1	68.0
SMU	29	42.7	66.7	33.0	38.7	15.5	6.8	3.1	17.7	69.6
Hawaii	29	43.1	68.8	30.1	33.8	14.1	8.2	2.8	16.2	73.3
UTEP	28	44.6	71.4	34.8	34.7	12.5	6.5	3.7	14.5	74.4
Fresno State	33	42.4	68.6	32.1	41.4	16.2	7.8	1.9	15.6	77.1
TCU	32	45.9	65.2	37.9	40.9	4.3	8.8	4.3	21.5	84.1

1. Southern Methodist

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: While Jeryl Sasser generated most of the attention last season, Willie Davis was probably the MVP. The bruising Davis was good for more than 16 points and nine boards a game, and he often guarded the opposition's best low-post threat.

DeWayne Floyd blossomed once he moved into the starting lineup and gives SMU another physical, rebounding presence inside. Centers Nigel Smith (6-10) and Jon Forinash (6-11), though both untested, will be given a chance to contribute.

BACK COURT: At 6-6, Sasser is one of the WAC's bigger guards, and his athleticism makes him hard to handle in the open court. Damon Hancock, who started alongside Sasser in a three-guard look last season, likely will move over to point guard, with Quinton Ross joining them on the first team. Ross displayed Sasser-like talent off the bench last season. Renaldo Bratton played little in a reserve role but should be a reliable backup.

KEY NEWCOMER: This year's Ross could be Kris Lowe, a freshman swingman. With his build and reputation as a flier, he could find valuable minutes backing up Sasser and Ross.

STRATEGY: Last season, the Mustangs were in the WAC title race going into the last week of the season, before dropping a pair of heart-wrenching home games. The Mustangs, especially Sasser, shot poorly all season, and their discipline at end of games was suspect. Sasser's offseason included NBA dreams and some off-the-court problems, but he returns for his senior season focused. And with five of their top six scorers and the four best rebounders back, the Mustangs, the most athletic team in the conference, shape up as the favorite.

Mustangs

Coach: Mike Dement (78-65, 5 years; 200-188 overall, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 21-8. WAC: 9-5/3rd.

Last league title: 1993 (SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Dallas.

Website: www.smumustangs.com

Home court: Moody Coliseum (8,998).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
23	G	Voc Atkins	6-3/190	Fr.	Also recruited by N. Dame, Auburn and Vandy.					
	G	Renaldo Bratton	6-0/165	Sr.	2.1	0.6	0.3	34.6	78.6	20.0
34	G/F	Willie Davis*	6-6/230	Sr.	16.5	9.3	1.6	45.0	62.5	17.7
43	F	DeWayne Floyd*	6-8/225	Jr.	5.0	4.7	0.4	43.3	58.7	25.9
54	C	Jon Forinash	6-11/270	Jr.	2.4	4.4	0.3	37.5	32.3	0.0
4	G	Damon Hancock*	6-3/195	Jr.	10.8	3.0	2.1	45.7	70.2	33.3
33	F	Jibran Kelley	6-8/225	So.	0.6	1.7	0.2	38.5	53.3	0.0
24	G/F	Kris Lowe	6-6/208	Fr.	GA All-State first-teamer can play 3 spots.					
55	F	Mike Niemi	6-8/270	Jr.	2.0	2.2	0.4	31.7	77.1	0.0
13	G	Quinton Ross	6-6/175	So.	7.5	4.0	1.3	43.4	64.1	36.1
5	G	Jeryl Sasser*	6-6/200	Sr.	17.3	8.3	4.6	37.8	68.0	27.8
50	C	Nigel Smith	6-10/235	So.	Redshirted last year for medical reasons.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Stephen Woods*	6-0/185	13.5	3.7	2.7	38.4	66.7	33.9

Schedule

N25 at Lamar	D20-22 San Juan Shoot.	J25 Nevada	F22 Fresno State
N29 at New Mexico St.	D29-30 All-College Tour.	J27 at TCU	F24 at Tulsa
D2 Tulane	J4 San Jose State	J30 Morris Brown	M3 TCU
D4 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	J6 Hawaii	F3 Tulsa	
D7 at Tennessee	J11 at Nevada	F5 at Rice	
D9 at Navy	J13 at Fresno State	F8 UTEP	
D17 Houston	J18 Rice	F15 at Hawaii	
	J22 at UTEP	F18 at San Jose State	

2. Texas Christian

NATIONAL RANK

38

FRONTCOURT: The team's biggest questions are up front. Top scorer and rebounder Marquise Gainous is gone. Derrick Davenport has shown flashes, especially on defense. Much was expected of Myron Anthony, a banger who transferred from

Kentucky, but he fell into Billy Tubbs' doghouse and nearly left at season's end. Marlon Dumont is a JC transfer who could contend for a starting spot, while Rebel Paulk remains a project.

BACKCOURT: This unit has the most depth—five returnees played significant minutes last season. Swingman Ryan Carroll averaged better than 15 points and five rebounds and broke several games open with clutch 3-point shooting. Bingo Merriex also is a 3-point threat. Estell Laster was the best defender on the perimeter, but his shot selection is iffy at times. Thomas McTyer and Larry Allaway started at point guard at different points during the season, with McTyer proving the more reliable.

KEY NEWCOMER: After sitting out last season as a transfer, guard Greedy Daniels is ready to bring his defensive prowess and intensity to the court. Daniels, formerly of UNLV, hounded TCU guards in practice last season, and he'll be given every chance to overtake McTyer and Allaway at the point. TCU welcomes the addition of Daniels, but losing highly touted signee Cory Hightower to the NBA could have the biggest impact.

STRATEGY: Tubbs loves to run and his team is full of guys who do just that. But offense hasn't been the problem; stopping people has. Still, this team figures to be more talented than last year's squad. With Tulsa and Fresno State undergoing major changes, TCU should contend for at least a top-three finish.

DATA

Horned Frogs

Coach: Billy Tubbs (119-70, 6 years; 558-270, 26 years; 18-12 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 18-14. WAC: 8-6/4th.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Fort Worth, Texas.

Website: www.gofrogs.com

Home court: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum (7,200).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%	
11	G	Larry Allaway	5-11/185	Sr.	6.6	2.6	4.3	34.1	70.1	33.3	
32	F	Myron Anthony	6-6/225	Sr.	10.9	5.9	1.2	52.2	68.5	33.3	
55	F	Chris Campbell	6-9/220	So.	Redshirt first attended Air Force Academy.						
25	G/F	Ryan Carroll*	6-4/190	Sr.	15.2	5.1	2.3	48.6	66.1	39.8	
41	G	Greedy Daniels	6-0/180	Jr.	Transferred from UNLV, plays great defense.						
15	C	Derrick Davenport*	6-10/210	Sr.	11.2	5.8	0.8	46.4	5.8	25.0	
4	G	James Davis	6-3/190	Fr.	Strong for size and can play SF or SG.						
42	C	Marlon Dumont	6-10/220	Jr.	JC transfer from Seminole State College.						
24	G	Estell Laster*	6-2/185	Sr.	12.6	3.9	3.5	45.5	81.5	36.0	
3	G	Thomas McTyer*	5-11/156	Sr.	5.9	2.3	4.2	40.7	70.3	45.0	
34	G	Bingo Merriex	6-6/190	So.	7.6	3.3	1.1	40.4	66.7	39.6	
44	C	Rebel Paulk	6-10/240	So.	1.8	1.9	0.3	42.5	66.7	—	
	G	Nucleus Smith	6-2/180	Fr.	Played at Maine Central Institute last year.						
33	G	Corey Valsin	6-6/220	Fr.	Another possible contributor at SF or SG.						

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Marquise Gainous*	6-9/230	20.7	8.3	1.8	49.7	84.3	34.3

Schedule	Commonwealth	J13 at Nevada	F15 Fresno State
N17 Northwestern State	D19 Princeton	J18 at Tulsa	F17 Nevada
N20 Alabama State	D23 at Butler	J20 Rice	F22 at Hawaii
N24-26 Hawaii Pacific	D28 Texas Tech	J24 Grambling State	F24 at San Jose State
Class.	D30 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	J27 SMU	M1 UTEP
D2 at Texas-San	J4 Hawaii	F1 Tulsa	M3 at SMU
Antonio	J6 San Jose State	F3 at UTEP	
D6 Virginia	J11 at Fresno State	F10 at Rice	

3. Fresno State

NATIONAL RANK

45

FRONTCOURT: The most complete center in the WAC, Melvin Ely, gets it done at both ends. Ely led the WAC in blocks and shooting percentage last season. With little returning help up front, a number of new players will see action. Transfers Chris Jefferies, a

6-7 swingman, and 6-8 Shannon Swillis are eligible after sitting out last season. Mustafa Al-Said, a 6-9 freshman from the Sudan, could join Ely down on the block. Noel Felix and Andrea Bona played sporadically last season.

BACKCOURT: Demetrius Porter joins Ely as the only other returning starter. Porter led the WAC in assists (6.2) and assist-turnover ratio (2.8 to 1) and placed in the WAC's top 15 in every category except blocks, rebounds and free-throw percentage. JC transfer Travon Hubbard, Tito Maddox and Travis DeManby will battle for the shooting guard spot. Nick Irvin, who backed up Porter last year, returns.

KEY NEWCOMER: League coaches raved during the offseason about the explosive Jefferies, a former starter at Arkansas who left the Razorbacks after only one season to return to his hometown. With the departures of Courtney Alexander and Terrance Roberson, Jefferies could carry much of the offensive burden.

STRATEGY: The Bulldogs play a NBA-style game and under Jerry Tarkanian, they have attracted more than their share of athletes. But the collection of transfers and talent that other programs might not touch has often proved to be a volatile mix, imploding at times during the season. If the Bulldogs want to make it two straight NCAA berths, Porter and Ely have to step it up a notch, and the newcomers need to come to play.

DATA

Bulldogs

Coach: Jerry Tarkanian (108-57, 5 years; 733-180 overall, 29 years; 37-16 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with UNLV in 1990).

1999-2000 record: 24-9. WAC: 11-3/2nd. Lost to Wisconsin in NCAA West first round.

Last league title: 1997.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Fresno, Calif.

Website: www.gobulldogs.com

Home court: Selland Arena (10,220).

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
45	F/C	Mustafa Al-Said	6-9/225	Fr.	Project,	raw	athlete,	still	new	to U.S. hoops.
23	F	Andrea Bona	6-7/215	Jr.	0.8	1.2	0.6	25.0	100.0	16.7
30	F	Nate Daniels	6-7/215	Fr.	Possible	8/9	man	on	team	that goes 9 deep.
22	G	Travis DeManby	6-3/180	So.	3.9	1.5	1.2	33.0	75.7	31.5
33	C	Melvin Ely*	6-9/240	Sr.	13.3	7.0	0.9	60.3	65.3	65.3
12	F	Noel Felix	6-8/210	So.	2.7	2.2	0.1	54.8	51.4	—
4	G	Travon Hubbard	6-4/210	Jr.	JC transfer from Contra Costa College (CA).					
21	G	Nick Irvin	5-11/215	Jr.	3.2	1.6	3.7	31.0	64.0	22.4
1	G/F	Chris Jefferies	6-7/220	So.	Transferred from Arkansas.					
2	G	Tito Maddox	6-4/190	Fr.	Helps a lot as starting PG. Porter goes to SG.					
5	G	Demetrius Porter*	6-0/170	Sr.	13.1	3.2	6.25	46.7	71.1	43.7
3	F	Shannon Swillis	6-8/210	Sr.	Transferred from Univ. of Southern California.					

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Courtney Alexander*	6-5/210	24.8	4.7	3.5	45.3	78.1	33.3
F	Terrence Roberson*	6-7/215	16.3	4.9	4.1	41.9	85.4	36.3
F	Larry Abney*	6-8/220	10.3	11.8	0.7	59.5	58.4	0.0

Schedule	D16 UAB	J6 at Tulsa	F10 Hawaii
N17-19 Hispanic	D19-20 Trend Homes	J11 TCU	F15 at TCU
Sch'lshp Tr.	Classic	J13 SMU	F17 At UTEP
N23 North Carolina*	D23 Georgia	J20 at Nevada	F22 at SMU
N27 San Diego State	D28 South Carolina	J25 UTEP	F24 Nevada
D2 at San Francisco	State	F1 at Hawaii	M1 Rice
D4 Pacific	D30 Norfolk State	F3 at San Jose State	M3 Tulsa
D13 at Santa Clara	J4 at Rice	F8 San Jose State	*Springfield, Mass.

4. Tulsa

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: How deep was Tulsa last season? David Shelton, its leading scorer and third-leading rebounder, couldn't break into the starting lineup. That won't be the case this season. Shelton, a 6-6, 230-pound force, will get his number called plenty. Outside of

Shelton, the front line returns little experience. Two 6-10 signees (Jack Ingram and J.T. Ivie) have the tough task of replacing All-WAC (second team) center Brandon Kurtz.

BACKCOURT: Marcus Hill and Greg Harrington are the two returning starters. Hill, a versatile swingman, is the most athletic returnee. A solid scorer and defender, Hill is a strong rebounder and solid 3-point threat. Harrington, an excellent shooter, will be in a playmaking role. Only Shelton had more minutes off the bench than backup point guard Dante Swanson, who nearly had twice as many assists as turnovers.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Ingram and Ivie won't be expected to step into Kurtz's role and thrive immediately. But the Golden Hurricane need the duo to provide help in the form of tough defense and solid work on the boards.

STRATEGY: The cupboard isn't bare, but new coach Buzz Peterson doesn't have the talent Bill Self rode to the Elite Eight. But Peterson is the perfect replacement, a young coach in the Self-mode. Philosophically grounded in defense, Peterson's sincere approach relates well with players. He promises to play the quick, aggressive style that worked wonders at Appalachian State, and, coincidentally is Self's calling card. With only three key contributors returning, Tulsa won't win 32 games again. An NCAA berth is the goal, but the NIT may be the team's best bet.

Golden Hurricane

Coach: Buzz Peterson (first year; 79-39 overall, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 32-5. WAC: 12-2/1st. Lost to North Carolina in NCAA West final.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Tulsa, Okla.

Website: www.utulsaathletics.com

Home court: Reynolds Center (8,300).

*1999-2000 starter										Highlighted names: projected starter		
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%		
2	F	Charlie Davis	6-7/224	So.	2.5	2.5	0.2	62.9	64.1	—		
10	G	Greg Harrington*	6-2/185	Jr.	10.8	2.7	2.9	49.8	79.5	42.2		
31	G	Marcus Hill*	6-5/195	Sr.	11.2	4.2	2.7	42.9	62.2	33.5		
50	F/C	Jack Ingram	6-10/225	Fr.	Good outside game for his size..							
45	C	J.T. Ivie	6-10/270	Fr.	Banger needs to add minutes, toughness.							
34	F	Kevin Johnson	6-7/215	So.	2.4	1.5	0.5	52.9	58.3	—		
32	F	Marqus Ledoux	6-8/200	So.	Transferred from LSU.							
55	F	DeAngelo McDaniel	6-9/220	Jr.	1.8	1.5	0.3	51.0	52.2	—		
11	G	Jason Parker	6-2/175	Fr.	First-team All-State (OK), adds guard depth.							
3	G	Antonio Reed	5-10/165	So.	1.8	1.1	0.8	28.3	82.6	11.8		
33	F	David Shelton	6-6/230	Sr.	13.5	4.5	0.5	47.4	76.6	35.3		
1	G	Dante Swanson	5-10/170	So.	5.5	1.2	1.0	43.4	83.9	34.8		

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Eric Coley*	6-5/210	11.3	6.8	3.4	52.4	56.8	20.4
C	Brandon Kurtz*	6-10/245	11.2	7.0	1.6	51.3	66.9	23.1
G	Tony Heard*	6-0/175	9.7	2.3	3.3	41.7	78.1	38.6

Schedule

N10-11 NABC Classic	D19 Creighton	J20 at UTEP	F22 at Rice
N17 North Texas	D22 Wichita State	J25 Hawaii	F24 SMU
N20 Rhode Island	D30 Prairie View A&M	J27 San Jose State	M1 at Nevada
D1-2 Hawkeye Challenge	J2 Jackson State	F1 at TCU	M3 at Fresno State
D5 at SW Missouri St.	J6 Fresno State	F3 at SMU	
D10 Oral Roberts	J11 at San Jose State	F8 Rice	
D16 at Kansas	J13 at Hawaii	F10 UTEP	
	J18 TCU	F15 Nevada	

5. Texas-El Paso

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Forward Brandon Wolfram is possibly the WAC's best returning player and easily the league's best-shooting big man. Joining Wolfram up front is small forward Roy Smallwood, the WAC's top rookie last season. Smallwood can stroke it from

beyond the arc (46 percent last season), and his forays to the hoop are highlights waiting to happen. Beyond those two, UTEP is hopeful that a couple from the group of Nick Enzweiler, Antone Jarrell, Leonard Owens, Brian Stewart and Leviticus Williamson can contribute.

BACKCOURT: With the loss of their top four guards, coach Jason Rabedaux brought in a pair of junior college transfers to fill the void. Eugene Costello will take over at point guard, with Chris Neal at shooting guard. Victor Lucus, Drew Price and former walk-ons Javier Mendoza and Parker Vandivort will battle for reserve minutes.

KEY NEWCOMERS: With nearly all of the Miners' experience in the frontcourt, Costello and Neal need to jump in and establish themselves on the Division-I level. Costello, especially, will carry the brunt of the responsibility. He must lead the up-tempo attack, get the ball to Wolfram and pressure the ball on defense. And with little on the bench behind him, Costello needs to be ready to play big minutes.

STRATEGY: Rabedaux is the WAC's most excitable coach, and his energy spills out to the court—like the coach himself at times. If UTEP gets a strong effort from the backcourt newcomers, a MVP-type performance from Wolfram and continued improvement from Smallwood, it can expect a winning season.

Miners

Coach: Jason Rabedaux (13-15, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 13-15. WAC: 4-10/7th.

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: El Paso, Texas.

Website: www.athletics.utep.edu

Home court: Don Haskins Center (12,222).

*1999-2000 starter										Highlighted names: projected starter		
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%		
12	G	Eugene Costello	5-10/165	Jr.	JC All-American from Midland College (TX).							
23	F	Nick Enzweiler	6-6/220	Fr.	Top HS scorer in state of California last year.							
15	F	Antone Jarrell	6-6/205	Fr.	A top 100 prospect in 2000 recruiting class.							
20	G	Victor Lucus	6-1/170	Jr.	1.9	1.0	1.6	30.2	75.0	21.1		
50	G	Javier Mendoza	6-2/205	Jr.	1.1	0.8	0.6	44.4	75.0	100.0		
22	G	Chris Neal	6-2/175	Jr.	JC transfer from Chemeketa (Wash.).							
4	F	Leonard Owens	6-6/190	Jr.	JC transfer from Western Nebraska.							
32	G	Drew Price	6-3/180	Fr.	Redshirted the 1999-2000 season.							
5	F	Roy Smallwood*	6-6/190	So.	13.4	5.9	1.75	52.1	69.7	45.9		
35	F/C	Brian Stewart	6-10/250	Jr.	Transferred from Washington St., elig. in Dec.							
33	F	L. Williamson	6-7/210	Jr.	Transferred from Notre Dame.							
30	F	Brandon Wolfram*	6-9/230	Sr.	20.7	6.8	1.7	55.3	83.1	40.0		

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	William Smith*	6-2/195	13.5	6.7	3.3	52.3	58.9	32.4
G	Eddie McRae*	6-1/180	8.8	2.6	4.75	41.1	69.4	40.0
G	Jarvis Mullahon*	6-4/195	11.4	3.7	1.7	45.3	73.9	39.7

Schedule

N21 at Washington	D23 New Mexico State	J25 at Fresno State	F24 at Rice
N29 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D27-28 Sun Carnival Cls.	J27 at Nevada	M1 at TCU
D2 at New Mexico St.	J4 Nevada	F1 Rice	M3 Hawaii
D5 at Texas Tech	J6 San Diego	F3 TCU	
D9 Alcorn State	J11 at Hawaii	F8 at SMU	
D18 Florida A&M	J13 at San Jose State	F10 at Tulsa	
D20 UNC Charlotte	J20 Tulsa	F17 Fresno State	
	J22 SMU	F22 San Jose State	

6. Hawaii

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: Two starters are back, center Troy Ostler and swingman Predrag Savovic. Ostler played power forward last season, but with the loss of Marquette Alexander, he moves over to the post. What he lacks in bulk (205), Ostler makes up in hustle. He averaged 12 points and seven boards, numbers that should rise with Alexander gone, and shot 54 percent from the field. He led the Warriors with 37 blocks. Savovic was second on the team in scoring despite being fifth in minutes. A streaky shooter, Savovic is capable of getting on a roll and taking control on the offensive end. Forward Lane O'Connor is coming off a season in which he received some quality time off the bench, while center Todd Fields remains a project.

BACK COURT: Nerijus Puida can do a little bit of everything. He led the team in assists and steals, averaged better than four rebounds and shot 56 percent. Mike McIntyre, who averaged 5.2 points last season, is the only other returning guard to see notable action last year. Transfer Ricky Terrell and freshman David Hilton have the best shot at breaking into the rotation.

KEY NEWCOMER: JC transfer Mindaugas Burneika, a 6-7 forward, should play the most dividends. Burneika and Puida were teammates at Weatherford College. Coach Riley Wallace says Burneika is a "scorer, passer and plays physical defense."

STRATEGY: The team fattened up the win column with a generous serving of home tournament wins last year and will do the same this season. The trick is picking up wins once WAC play starts and the team begins traveling, which proved difficult last year and cost the club a shot at an NIT berth.

DATA

Rainbows

Coach: Riley Wallace (199-184, 13 years; 214-211 overall, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 17-12. WAC: 5-9/6th.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Honolulu.

Website: www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu

Home court: Stan Sheriff Center (10,330).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Mindaugas Burneika	6-7/225	Jr.	National JC second team All-American.					
23	G	Carl English	6-4/178	Fr.	Redshirted last season because of injury.					
34	C	Todd Fields	7-0/252	Sr.	1.6	1.3	0.0	44.1	58.3	0.0
	G	David Hilton	5-11/145	Fr.	A point who should provide some quickness.					
3	G	Mike McIntyre	6-3/205	Jr.	5.2	1.2	1.2	40.8	76.9	45.2
33	F	Lane O'Connor	6-7/211	Sr.	3.5	1.5	0.5	38.7	65.2	30.0
24	F	Troy Ostler*	6-10/205	Sr.	12.3	7.0	1.1	54.2	58.7	50.0
22	G/F	Nerijus Puida*	6-5/195	Sr.	6.7	4.3	4.7	55.7	82.6	32.4
	F	Bosko Radovic	6-9/220	Fr.	Multi-skilled European needs time.					
1	G/F	Predrag Savovic*	6-6/225	Jr.	12.5	3.5	2.5	42.4	80.0	38.9
	F/C	Haim Shimonovic	6-10/245	Fr.	Good in post and can get out on the break.					
	G	Ricky Terrell	6-3/190	Jr.	Lefty point who can score and distribute.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Marquette Alexander*	6-9/250	15.0	7.9	2.0	52.8	76.9	0.0
G	Johnny White*	6-1/187	8.8	2.6	3.2	46.6	72.3	29.5
G	Jeremy Robinson	6-4/193	7.5	2.2	1.4	48.5	79.2	32.6

Schedule

N17 Louisville	D22 Cal State Northridge	J25 at Tulsa	F22 TCU
N24-26 United Airlines	D23 UAB	J27 at Rice	M1 at San Jose State
Tourn.	D27-30 Rainbow Classic	F1 Fresno State	M3 at UTEP
D9 at UCLA	J4 at TCU	F3 Nevada	
D16 Texas-Pan	J6 at SMU	F8 at Nevada	
American	J11 UTEP	F10 at Fresno State	
D21 Georgia State	J13 Tulsa	F15 SMU	
	J20 San Jose State	F17 Rice	

7. San Jose State

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONT COURT: The Spartans were one of the WAC's better rebounding teams last season—without a player taller than 6-7. Coach Steve Barnes recruited some height, but the heart of the frontcourt remains four players either 6-5 or 6-6 in Darnell Williams, Cory

Powell, Billy Landram and Kevin Blunt. Williams and Powell combined for nearly 25 points and 15 boards a game last season. Landram developed into a solid offensive threat and Blunt should contend for the starting center job. A group of five transfers, led by David Granucci will be counted on to provide depth.

BACK COURT: The starting point guard spot is up for grabs, with Mike Garrett battling Scott Sonnenberg and Chris Funderburk. Sonnenberg, a part-time starter at BYU in 1997, and Garrett can also play off-guard. If the Spartans want to go bigger on the perimeter, Landram or Powell could move into the backcourt. Landram set a single-season school record for 3-pointers last season. Redshirt freshman Brett Lilly could also be in the mix.

KEY NEWCOMER: Granucci is one of the three first-team all-state JC transfers joining the team. Though the Spartans could use his numbers from last season (15 points and 11 rebounds a game), his size (6-9, 225) could prove to be his biggest asset. Last season, the club couldn't match up with the WAC's bigger posts, a problem that he could alleviate.

STRATEGY: Barnes got a late start last season—he wasn't hired until late August—but the team had its best record in six years with a grind-it-out, defense-first philosophy. Reaching .500 again could be a struggle, as Barnes tries to replace underrated point guard R.J. Powell and blend in eight new faces.

DATA

Spartans

Coach: Steve Barnes (15-15, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 15-15. WAC: 6-8/5th.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: San Jose, Calif.

Website: www.sjsuspartans.com

Home court: The Event Center (5,000).

*1999-2000 starter				Highlighted names: projected starter						
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
45	F	Kevin Blunt	6-6/253	Sr.	6.1	4.3	0.5	52.0	60.0	0.0
	C	Garvin Davis	7-0/230	Jr.	12.5 points, 8.8 rebounds at JC last season.					
	G	Chris Funderburk	6-0/195	Jr.	Played two seasons as Louisiana-Lafayette.					
12	G	Mike Garrett	6-0/195	Sr.	4.3	1.8	0.5	24.2	57.1	22.0
	F/C	David Granucci	6-9/225	Jr.	Led City College of San Francisco in scoring.					
	F	Tellys Knight	6-4/215	Jr.	One of California's top JC rebounders.					
11	F	Billy Landram*	6-5/182	Sr.	12.7	3.9	1.2	39.7	67.9	37.6
23	F	Brett Lilly	6-4/190	Fr.	Redshirted last season for medical reasons.					
33	F	Cory Powell	6-5/205	Sr.	12.8	6.5	0.3	44.4	64.4	34.3
	G	Scott Sonnenberg	5-10/175	Jr.	Started at BYU during 1996-97 season.					
	F	Marion Thurmond	6-7/265	Jr.	Led JC Diablo Valley to district title game.					
41	F	Darnell Williams*	6-6/197	Sr.	11.7	8.6	1.8	48.7	59.6	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	R.J. Powell*	6-0/198	7.1	2.8	3.8	37.3	56.3	32.9
C	Eric Griffin*	6-7/232	4.1	5.0	0.5	59.5	44.4	0.0
G	David Egans*	6-4/186	5.4	1.6	Transferred.			

Schedule

N18 Cal State Hayward	D16 Pacific	J13 UTEP	F15 Rice
N21 at UC Riverside	D20 Cal State	J20 at Hawaii	F18 SMU
N26 at St. Mary's	D22 UC Santa Cruz	J25 at Rice	F22 UTEP
N29 Santa Clara	D30 UC Riverside	J27 at Tulsa	F24 TCU
D2 Eastern Washington	J4 SMU	F1 Nevada	M1 Hawaii
D5 Warner Pacific	J6 TCU	F3 Fresno State	
D9 Pepperdine	J11 Tulsa	F8 at Fresno State	
		F10 at Nevada	

8. Rice

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: The Owls welcome back 6-6 senior forward Erik Cooper, who missed most of last season with a foot injury. Cooper, one of the team's best scorers before the setback, looked healthy during a series of exhibition games over the summer

in Europe. After serving admirably as a backup to Alex Bougaieff last season, center T.J. McKenzie is ready to step up to the first team. A trio of sophomores (Brandon Evans, Ferron Morgan and Kevin Craig) who were pressed into duty last season also played well in Europe, giving the Owls a luxury they didn't have last season—depth.

BACKCOURT: Point guard Mike Wilks is one of the WAC's most exciting players, a sparkplug capable of taking over a game. When healthy, Wilks, who missed six games last year, rarely comes off the court. He'll be paired with sharp-shooting Omar-Seli Mance in the starting lineup. Others forced on the floor as freshmen last season include Jay Christian, Michael Walton and Nick Robison. Though each player struggled at times, their year under fire has given them much-needed experience.

KEY NEWCOMER: Mance, a transfer from Louisiana State, proved to be the Owls' 3-point assassin in Europe. His shooting touch didn't stay in Europe—he led the competitive Houston summer league in scoring.

STRATEGY: Coach Willis Wilson brings in another capable freshman class and dynamic talent in Mance. Though many of the players have valuable experience and Wilks is back to provide steady leadership, this much-improved squad is still very young and will struggle to make a jump in the standings.

Owls

Coach: Willis Wilson (103-120, 8 years).
1999-2000 record: 5-22. WAC: 1-13/8th.
Last league title: 1970 (Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1970.
Site: Houston.
Home court: Autry Court (5,000).

Website: www.riceowls.com

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
15	F	Jay Christian*	6-5/190	So.	6.7	3.3	1.1	35.8	46.2	34.9
33	F	Erik Cooper	6-6/215	Sr.	14.3	6.8	1.0	35.2	100.0	52.6
25	F	Kevin Craig*	6-6/195	So.	3.5	2.8	1.3	30.3	53.6	20.0
42	F	Yamar Diene	6-8/215	Fr.	Native of Senegal is great athlete, rebounder.					
4	C/F	Brandon Evans	6-9/260	So.	4.7	5.2	0.5	41.7	70.8	0.0
12	F	Christian Kollik	6-7/195	Fr.	Member of Austrian Junior National team.					
0	G	Omar-Seli Mance	6-2/190	So.	Started 10 games at LSU in 1998-99.					
5	C	T.J. McKenzie*	6-11/255	Jr.	7.9	5.6	0.7	41.4	69.5	0.0
32	C	Ferron Morgan	6-10/225	So.	2.7	2.8	0.6	50.0	57.9	0.0
31	G/F	Nick Robison	6-5/180	So.	4.0	2.9	0.3	30.9	72.7	20.0
14	G	Rashid Smith	6-3/175	Fr.	PG was Central Louisiana player of the year.					
22	G	Shawn Tyndell	6-5/205	Jr.	7.0	1.5	1.0	28.6	71.4	16.7
11	G	Michael Walton*	6-0/165	So.	4.5	1.5	3.2	26.8	68.8	28.6
34	G	Mike Wilks*	5-11/180	Sr.	15.8	4.0	3.3	39.9	73.2	32.1

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C/F	Alex Bougaieff*	6-11/240	12.8	7.8	1.1	43.9	72.6	25.0

Schedule

	State	American	F8
N18 at Navy	D9 Brigham Young	J13 at Siena	F10 TCU
N21 Houston	D20 Portland State	J18 at SMU	F15 San Jose State
N24 Birmingham	D28 at Baylor	J20 at TCU	F17 at Hawaii
Southern	D30 Duquesne	J25 San Jose State	F22 Tulsa
N28 Stephen F. Austin	J4 Fresno State	J27 Hawaii	F24 UTEP
D2 Lamar	J6 Nevada	F1 at UTEP	M1 at Fresno State
D4 Middle Tennessee	J10 Texas-Pan	F5 SMU	M3 at Nevada

9. Nevada

NATIONAL RANK

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FRONTCOURT: Richard Sturgis, at 6-5, proved to be the team's best rebounder last season, grabbing nearly nine boards a game, and serving as an adequate offensive option. Joao Santos and Matt Ochs have played key minutes but are limited. Ochs has a tendency

to get in foul trouble and Santos lacks toughness. Needing height, coach Trent Johnson brought in two 6-9 guys in Sean Paul and Dennis Williams. Williams averaged a double-double in junior college, and Paul was one of the better high school prospects in Nevada. Craig Lewis, a signee in the Sturgis mode, could be a factor, along with transfer Corey Jackson.

BACKCOURT: Sophomore Terrance Green, who led the team in scoring as a freshman (13.9 points a game), returns, but like backcourt mate Adrian McCullough, he shot under 40 percent. Point man McCullough logged a team-high 33.4 minutes a game, shot a team-best 81 percent at the free-throw line and averaged 12.3 points. Freshman Andre Hazel might push McCullough. Donny Guerinoni and Mike Brown did little off the bench.

KEY NEWCOMER: Williams, who weighs 235, figures to have the most immediate impact. With the team's lack of size and skill up front, he is the most seasoned addition. He should help take some of the rebounding load off Sturgis and provide a scoring threat down low.

STRATEGY: Johnson preaches defense first, and the team held opponents to less than 70 points and 44 percent shooting last season, but the club failed to come close to those numbers on offense. The club struggled through its last season in the Big West—expect more of the same in the tougher WAC.

Wolf Pack

Coach: Trent Johnson (9-20, 1 year).
1999-2000 record: 9-20. Big West Eastern Division: 6-10/T3rd.
Last league title: 1985 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Reno, Nev.
Home court: Lawlor Events Center (11,200).

Website: www.nevadawolfpack.com

*1999-2000 starter					Highlighted names: projected starter					
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Terrance Green*	6-2/185	So.	13.9	4.2	2.0	37.2	79.7	37.1
22	G	Donny Guerinoni	6-0/175	Sr.	3.1	0.9	1.1	28.8	75.0	27.9
2	G	Andre Hazel	5-11/175	Fr.	Ranked second best PG in all California HS.					
25	F/C	Brian Hedlund	6-7/220	So.	Redshirt left Air Force Academy after illness.					
30	F	Corey Jackson	6-7/210	Jr.	JC transfer from Ranger College in Texas.					
1	F	Craig Lewis	6-5/170	Fr.	In HS, SG put down 24.6 ppg and 12.8 rpg.					
5	G	Adrian McCullough*	5-10/170	Sr.	12.3	3.6	3.9	33.6	80.8	27.3
45	F	Matt Ochs*	6-8/215	So.	3.4	3.7	0.1	36.5	63.8	0.0
42	F/C	Sean Paul	6-9/225	Fr.	One of Nevada's top preps (20.4 ppg, 12 rpg)					
15	F	Joao Santos*	6-8/210	Sr.	8.6	4.7	1.2	43.5	63.5	39.7
35	F	Richard Sturgis*	6-5/190	Sr.	9.0	8.7	0.6	54.4	60.7	25.0
23	G	Garry Hill-Thomas	6-3/185	Fr.	Could add minutes at shooting guard.					
44	F/C	Dennis Williams	6-9/235	Jr.	JC transfer from Skyline in San Francisco.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Calvin Criddle	6-5/225	6.7	4.1	0.3	37.9	76.7	31.8
G	Tommy Zapata	6-3/185	5.6	1.9	1.5	30.2	74.0	30.1

Schedule

	State	American	F15
N18 at San Francisco	D16 St. Mary's	J13 TCU	F17 at TCU
N20 Montana State	D21 Westminster College	J20 Fresno State	F24 at Fresno State
N25 Montana	D23 at Santa Clara	J25 at SMU	M1 Tulsa
N29 Arkansas State	D30 at Washington State	J27 UTEP	M3 Rice
D3 at Portland State	J4 at UTEP	F1 at San Jose State	
D9 UNLV	J6 at Rice	F3 at Hawaii	
D11 at Montana State	J11 SMU	F8 Hawaii	
		F10 San Jose State	

Mid-American

RANK
11

EAST DIVISION

1 MARSHALL National Rank: 48

Coach: Greg White (68-45, 4 years; 187-199 overall, 14 years).

1999-2000 record: 21-9, MAC East: 11-7/4th.

Starters lost (1): Derrick Wright, F (6.4 ppg, 7.4 rpg).

Others lost: Deon Dobbs, G/F; Brian Faulkner, G; Josh Perkey, F.

Starters returning (4): Tamar Slay, G, 6-9/Jr. (20.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.3 apg); Travis Young, G, 6-0/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.4 apg); Cornelius Jackson, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 7.3 apg); J.R. VanHoose, C, 6-10/Jr. (17.6 ppg, 8.6 rpg).

Other returnees: Monty Wright, G, 6-4/Jr.; Joda Burgess, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (8.8 ppg); Sean Wuller, C, 6-11/Sr.; Edwin Johnson, F, 6-9/So.

Top newcomers: Ardo Armpalu, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Enoch Bunch, G, 6-0/Fr.; Gabe Kennedy, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jon Bentley, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Latece Williams, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); William Butler, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Thundering Herd could have the MAC's best shooting guard (Slay) and best center (VanHoose). Slay showed the ability to score 30 points in a game as he led the conference in scoring.

VanHoose has no flash in his game, but he is a steady inside workhorse who excelled last season last year despite knees so sore that he was forced to sit out many practices. Point guard Jackson and shooting guard Young form what might be the top backcourt in the MAC. Two concerns are a lack of depth and inconsistent play inside by everybody but VanHoose.

Last league title: 1995 (Southern).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Huntington, W. Va. **Home court:** Henderson Center (9,043).

2 KENT National Rank: 70

Coach: Gary Waters (68-50, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-8, MAC East: 13-5/2nd. Lost to Penn State in NIT quarterfinals.

Starters lost (1): John Whorton, C (12.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 63.6 FG%).

Others lost: Geoffrey Vaughn, F/C (3.1 ppg); Al Moore, F; Ryan Lehrke, G.

Starters returning (4): Eric Thomas, F, 6-4/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 48.5 3%); Kyrem Massey, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 4.7 rpg); Andrew Mitchell, G, 5-11/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.5 apg); Demetric Shaw, G, 6-3/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg).

Other returnees: Trevor Huffman, G, 6-1/Jr. (13.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 4.6 apg); Mike Perry, F, 6-9/Jr. (3 ppg, 2.3 rpg); Nate Meers, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.8 ppg).

Top newcomers: John Edwards, C, 7-0/Fr. (RS); Eric Haut, G, 6-0/Fr. (RS); Anthony Wilkins, G, 6-7/Jr.; Matt Smriga, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; Frank Phifer, F, 6-9/Fr.; Bryan Bedford, F, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: Huffman was one of the most unique players in the nation last season. Despite coming off the bench in 27 of 31 games, he led the team in scoring

and assists. He'll probably move into the starting lineup this season. With Whorton gone, the big question will be with Kent's post play. The inside game could receive a boost if Massey has a strong season. Great things have been expected of him since his freshman season. He has been good, but the Flashes are still waiting for a true breakout performance. Kent has the best full-court pressure defense in the MAC, which makes it difficult to beat.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Kent, Ohio. **Home court:** M.A.C. Center (6,237).

3 BOWLING GREEN National Rank: 95

Coach: Dan Dakich (50-34, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 22-8, MAC East: 14-4/1st. Lost to Brigham Young in NIT first round.

Starters lost (2): Dave Esterkamp, G (13.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 55.9 FG%); Anthony Stacey, F (16.8 ppg, 6 rpg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Keith McLeod, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.9 ppg, 47.7 FG%); Len Matela, C, 6-9/Jr. (12.5 ppg, 7.7 rpg); Trent Jackson, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg).

Other returnees: Cory Ryan, G/F, 6-5/So.; Dubrey Black, G, 6-4/Sr..

Top newcomers: Kevin Netter, C/F, 6-11/Fr. (RS); Jabari Mattox, G, 6-0/Fr.; Josh Almanson, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: The Falcons lost only two significant players—Stacey and Esterkamp—from last year's MAC regular-season championship team, but they were the heart and soul of the squad. Finding replacements will be a major challenge. The Falcons will need a collective effort to overcome those losses, spearheaded by Matela, McLeod and Pardon. Matela is a good inside scorer, McLeod ranked among the national leaders last season in 3-point percentage, and Pardon's unselfish play spread to the rest of the team.

Last league title: 2000 (MAC East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1968.

Site: Bowling Green, Ohio. **Home court:** Anderson Arena (5,000).

4 OHIO National Rank: 106

Coach: Larry Hunter (185-137, 11 seasons; 490-213 overall, 24 seasons; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 20-13, MAC East: 11-7/3rd.

Starters lost (2): Sanjay Adell, F (16.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg); Shaun Stonerook, F (15.7 ppg, 11.7 rpg, 4.2 apg, 45.7 FG%).

Others lost: Corey Reed, G.

Starters returning (3): Brandon Hunter, F, 6-7/So. (11.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 51.4 FG%); Dustin Ford, G, 5-10/Sr. (8.4 ppg, 3.1 apg); Steve Esterkamp, F, 6-6/So. (8.1 ppg, 77.9 FT%).

Other returnees: Anthony Jones, F, 6-4/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Patrick Flomo, F, 6-8/Jr. (68.1 FG%); Shaun McVicker, C, 6-9/Jr.; Jason Crawford, F, 6-5/Jr.; Adam Howell, G, 6-3/So.; Asa Jewett, C, 6-11/So.

Top newcomers: Kevin Shorter, F, 6-8/Fr.; Alex Liatos, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: The Bobcats had one of the MAC's strongest

BY DOUG ZALESKI

Muncie (Ind.) Star Press

Predictions

East Division

1. Marshall*
2. Kent*
3. Bowling Green
4. Ohio
5. Miami (Ohio)
6. Akron
7. Buffalo

West Division

1. Ball State
2. Toledo
3. Central Michigan
4. Eastern Michigan
5. Northern Illinois
6. Western Michigan
- *NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-MAC

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Trevor Huffman, Kent	6-1	195	Jr.
G	Tamar Slay, Marshall	6-9	210	Jr.
C	J.R. VanHoose, Marshall	6-10	240	Jr.
F	Greg Stempin, Toledo	6-8	202	Sr.
F	Theron Smith, Ball State	6-8	215	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Cornelius Jackson, Marshall	6-4	205	Sr.
G	David Webber, Central Michigan	6-2	210	Jr.
C	Len Matela, Bowling Green	6-9	220	Jr.
F	Leon Rodgers, Northern Illinois	6-6	219	Jr.
F	Brandon Hunter, Ohio	6-7	240	So.

Player of the Year

J.R. VanHoose, C, Marshall

Newcomer of the Year

Julius Johnson, G, Miami (Ohio)

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Tamar Slay, Marshall

Best rebounder: J.R. VanHoose, Marshall

Best playmaker: Cornelius Jackson, Marshall

Best defender: Lonnie Jones, Ball State

Best leaper: Louis Campbell, Buffalo

Most versatile: Kyrem Massey, Kent

Most flamboyant: Patrick Jackson, Ball State

Best NBA prospect: Greg Stempin, Toledo

frontcourts last season, but that's an area the team needs to shore up this year. Hunter is back after a stellar freshman season, but Ohio must replace Stonerook and Adell. Two candidates could be newcomers Liatos, an athletic and versatile forward, and Shorter. Shorter needs to get stronger, but his versatility will allow him to play on the perimeter and inside. Hunter is a dominating inside presence and earned a spot on the MAC freshman team last season.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Athens, Ohio. **Home court:** The Convocation Center (13,000).

5 MIAMI (OHIO) National Rank: 146

Coach: Charlie Coles (77-44, 4 years; 169-128; 10 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-15, MAC East: 8-10/6th.

Starters lost (4): Anthony Taylor, G (16.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Jason Stewart, F (12.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Rob Mestas, G (9.3 ppg, 3 rpg); Refiloe Lethunya, F (7 ppg, 6.2 rpg).

MID-AMERICAN

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (1): Mike Ensminger, C, 6-6/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 6 rpg).

Other returnees: Jason Grunkemeyer, G, 6-5/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 2.1 rpg); Rich Allendorf, C, 6-10/Sr. (3.9 ppg, 3.8 rpg); Brian Edwards, C/F, 6-7/Jr.; Bryan Reed, F, 6-6/So.; Ben Helmers, G, 6-1/Jr.

Top newcomers: Julius Johnson, G, 6-5/Fr.; Eugene Seals, F, 6-6/Fr.; Larry Drake, F, 6-5/So. (Prop 48); Alex Shorts, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Doug Davis, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Michigan State).

Outlook: The RedHawks' five newcomers have been labeled by Coles as "maybe the most talented group of players to ever join Miami's program in the same year." They'll have a chance to show how good they are. Playing opportunities are plentiful with the loss of four starters from last year's team. Johnson, Seals, Davis, Shorts and Drake will be asked to have an impact this year. The only holdovers of significance are Ensminger, Allendorf and Grunkemeyer, who combined to score 18 points a game last season.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Oxford, Ohio. **Home court:** Millett Hall (9,200).

6 AKRON National Rank: 204

Coach: Dan Hipsher (63-71, 5 years; 189-116 overall, 11 years).

1999-2000 record: 17-11. MAC East: 11-7/T3rd.

Starters lost (4): Ryan Andrick, F (14.3 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 48.7 FG%); Jimmal Ball, G (13.1 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 4.1 apg); Jami Bosley, G (16.2 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.7 apg); George Phillips, F (9.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 49.2 FG%).

Others lost: Kirene Johnson, F (1.8 ppg, 1.6 rpg); Andy Norman, G.

Starters returning (1): Bruce Weinkein, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 52.8 FG%).

Other returnees: Andy Hipsher, F, 6-8/So. (8 ppg, 4 rpg, 54.3 FG%); John Carson, G, 6-1/Sr. (4 ppg); Nate Schindewolf, F, 6-5/Sr.; Marco Morgan, C, 6-9/Jr. (3.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg); David Falknor, F, 6-7/Jr.

Top newcomers: Courtney Jones, G, 6-3/Fr.; Byron Thompson, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Larry Penn, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Matt Seibert, C, 7-0/Fr. (RS); Emmanuel Smith, G, 6-2/So. (Prop 48); Rashon Brown, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/Western Kentucky); Andre Sims, G, 6-0/So. (transfer/Kent).

Outlook: The four departed starters were all career 1,000-point scorers. This season's Zips are a youthful group that includes 10 players in their second year. The only returning starter is Weinkein, who regressed last year after a solid sophomore season. Hipsher, who can play three positions, probably is the team's most versatile player. Largely unknown players Carson, Brown, Smith, Jones and Sims will contend for time in the backcourt.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Akron, Ohio. **Home court:** Rhodes Arena (5,942).

7 BUFFALO National Rank: 280

Coach: Reggie Witherspoon (3-20, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 5-23. MAC East: 3-15/7th.

Starters lost (3): Nikolai Alexeev, C (9.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Alexei Vasiliiev, G (9 ppg, 42.3 3%); Mike McKie, F (8.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg).

Others lost: Rick Fox, F; Kerry Hendrickson, G.

Starters returning (2): Louis Campbell, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg); Damien Foster, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 3.2 rpg).

Other returnees: Clement Smith, F, 6-7/Jr.; Davis Lawrence, G, 5-10/Jr. (2.4 ppg, 2 rpg); Maliso Libomi, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS/redshirt).

Top newcomers: Brian Kennedy, G, 6-2/Fr.; Gabe Cagwin, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Robert Brown, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Kevin Swoffer, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Carlos Gill, F, 6-7/Jr.

(JC); Jason Robinson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Buffalo will rely on the experience of returning seniors Campbell and Foster. Campbell will move from point guard to his natural position at shooting guard, where he could have a bigger impact on games. Foster is a wing player who cranked up his point production late last season. With Campbell moving off the point, Cagwin will take over. He has Division I experience, having played at UC Irvine in 1998-99. The Bulls struggled mightily in the post last season, and Swoffer will be asked to be an inside banger.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Buffalo, N.Y. **Home court:** Alumni Arena (8,500).

WEST DIVISION

1 BALL STATE National Rank: 79

Coach: Tim Buckley (first year).

1999-2000 record: 22-9. MAC West: 11-7/T1st. Lost to UCLA in NCAA Midwest first round.

Starters lost (2): Duane Clemons, G (18.7 ppg, 3 rpg, 2.8 apg); Mickey Hosier, G (5.7 ppg, 3.5 apg, 44.6 3%).

Others lost: Shane Franks, G.

Starters returning (3): Lonnie Jones, C, 6-11, Jr. (7.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.7 bpg); Josh Murray, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg); Theron Smith, F, 6-8/So. (12.2 ppg, 7.6 rpg).

Other returnees: Brian Burns, C, 6-8/Sr.; Mark Farris, F, 6-5/So.; Corey Harris, F/C, 6-8/Jr.; Patrick Jackson, G, 5-10/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 52.6 3%); Cedric Moodie, G, 6-1/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg); Rob Robbins, G, 6-4/So.

Top newcomers: Michael Bennett, G, 6-5/Fr.; Rawle Marshall, G, 6-6/Fr.; Robert Owens, F/G, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: The Cardinals lost their entire backcourt but return their entire frontcourt: Jones (an excellent shot blocker), Smith (last year's MAC freshman of the year) and Murray (an aggressive rebounder). Jackson should slide into the starting point guard spot, and Moodie is the top contender to take over at shooting guard. The Cardinals must develop some depth and adjust to a new style of play. First-year coach Buckley, who was a Ball State assistant for five years before spending last year at Marquette, will try to establish tighter discipline in the program.

Last league title: 2000 (tie/MAC West).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Muncie, Ind. **Home court:** Worthen Arena (11,500).

2 TOLEDO National Rank: 86

Coach: Stan Joplin (65-48, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 18-13. MAC West: 11-7/T1st.

Starters lost (2): Chad Kamstra, G (13.8 ppg, 2.6 rpg); Justin Hall, G (14.2 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 3.1 apg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Greg Stempin, F, 6-8/Sr. (15.7 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 2.1 apg); Robierre Cullars, F, 6-4/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 2.0 apg); Craig Rodgers, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg).

Other returnees: Nick Moore, G, 6-1/So. (5.3 ppg, 2.2 rpg); Rory Jones, G, 6-2/Sr. (2.8 ppg); Albert Wilson, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg); A.J. Shellabarger, C, 6-9/So.

Top newcomers: Terry Reynolds, G, 5-9/Fr.; Keith Triplett, G, 6-3/Fr.; Robert Sanders, F, 6-6/Fr.; Milo Kirsh, F, 6-7/So.

Outlook: The frontcourt will be a team strength. Stempin, a two-time All-MAC first-team selection, returns to help the team improve on last season's performance. The team hopes Rodgers continues to impress, as he did in the last half of the season. In the backcourt, Reynolds probably will replace Hall (an academic casualty) at the point, and Moore should take over at shooting guard. Triplett also should see extensive action.

Last league title: 1981 (tie/MAC West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Toledo, Ohio. **Home court:** Savage Hall (9,000).

3 CENTRAL MICHIGAN National Rank: 172

Coach: Jay Smith (21-60, 3 years; 44-66 overall, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-23. MAC West: 2-16/6th.

Starters lost (1): Dan Schell, F/C (7.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg).

Others lost: Willie Wallace, F (6.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg); Derrick Bird, G/F (3 ppg); Jason Webber, F (2.2 ppg, 2 rpg); Jamar Hill, G/F (2 ppg); Ted Baggett, G; Todd Simmons, F.

Starters returning (4): David Webber, G, 6-2/Jr. (19.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg); Chad Pleiness, F/C, 6-6/So. (9.4 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 53.5 FG%); Tim Kisner, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.4 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.7 apg); Jon Borovich, G/F, 6-1/Sr. (3.9 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.3 apg).

Other returnees: Todd Schrotenboer, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg); Luke Johnson, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.4 ppg); J.R. Wallace, G, 6-0/So. (4.3 ppg); Mike Manceli, F, 6-5/So. (RS/redshirt).

Top newcomers: T.J. Meerman, G, 6-3/Fr.

(RS/medical); Tony Bowne, G, 6-3/Fr.; Gerrit Brighitha, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; Adam Dentlinger, F, 6-7/Fr.; Chris Kaman, C, 7-0/Fr.; Jonathan Woods, C, 7-0/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Chippewas are a team many opponents hate to play because they are scrappy and don't mind the role of underdog. They have a good backcourt in Kisner, a steady point guard, and Webber, an explosive scorer at shooting guard. The frontcourt features Manceli, the 1999 MAC freshman of the year, who returns after missing most of last season with a broken foot. The Chippewas plan to have Manceli spend more time facing the basket and less time on the low block.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Mt. Pleasant, Mich. **Home court:** Rose Arena (5,200).

4 EASTERN MICHIGAN National Rank: 180

Coach: Jim Boone (first year; 273-137 overall, 14 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-13. MAC West: 9-9/3rd.

Starters lost (3): Calvin Warner, C (14.6 ppg, 7 rpg, 53.7 FG%); Corey Tarrant, F (10.2 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Antonio Gates, F (10.2 ppg, 7.4 rpg).

Others lost: Larry Fisher, G (6 ppg); DeSean Hadley, G (4.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Craig Erquhart, F (4.4 ppg, 2.2 rpg).

Starters returning (2): Adam Hess, F, 6-7/So. (9.5 ppg, 4 rpg); C.J. Grantham, G, 5-9/So. (8.7 ppg, 3.5 apg).

Other returnees: Mosi Barnes, G, 6-0/Sr. (2.1 ppg); Dante Darling, G, 6-5/Jr. (2.4 ppg); Ryan Prillman, F, 6-7/So.; Tyson Radney, F, 6-7/Sr.; Mats Nordin, C, 7-0/Jr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Ricky Cottrill, G, 6-3/Fr.; Ryan Hopkins, G, 6-5/Fr.; James Jackson, F, 6-8/Fr.; Shamar Herron, C, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Ohio State).

Outlook: This is a team in transition. The Eagles lost several important lettermen, including Warner and Gates, there is a significant influx of transfers and incoming freshmen, and they have a new coach. One stabilizing factor is Grantham at the point. He was named to a spot on the MAC all-freshman team last season, and he reminded some of former waterbug Earl Boykins. The Eagles also hope to get some help in the frontcourt from Nordin and Herron.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Ypsilanti, Mich. **Home court:** Convocation Center (8,824).

5 NORTHERN ILLINOIS National Rank: 181

Coach: Brian Hammel (116-132, 9 years; 207-202, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record.)

1999-2000 record: 13-15. MAC West: 7-11/4th.

Starters lost (3): T.J. Lux, C/F (19.9 ppg, 8.9 rpg); Rey

Jones, G/F (8 ppg, 4.7 rpg); Ephraim Eaddy, G (5.1 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.8 apg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (2): Leon Rodgers, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.8 ppg, 6.9 rpg); Mike Brown, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.7 ppg).

Other returnees: Stephen Jones, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg); Matt Nelson, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (3.3 ppg); Jerry Sanders, F/C, 6-8/So. (2.6 ppg, 2.3 rpg); Markus Jankus, G, 5-10/So.; Steve Determan, F/C, 6-9/Sr.

Top newcomers: Marcus Smallwood, F, 6-6/Fr.; Al Sewasciuk, G, 6-4/Fr.; Walter Thompson, G, 5-10/Fr.; Herman Ezell, F, 6-4/Fr. (Prop 48).

Outlook: The Huskies couldn't transform themselves into a solid MAC team with Lux, and now they have to find a way to do it in the wake of his departure. If it's going to happen, power forward Leon Rodgers must be the player who leads. He had an impressive sophomore season, but he must prove his strong numbers at power forward weren't the result of teams doubling Lux. One question is whether the Huskies can find a reliable point guard. Jones played as an out-of-posi-

tion point guard for half of last season. Shooting guard Brown will be asked to be a more consistent scorer and better perimeter shooter.

Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: DeKalb, Ill. **Home court:** Chick Evans Field House (6,044).

6 WESTERN MICHIGAN

National Rank: 236

Coach: Robert McCullum (first year).

1999-2000 record: 10-18, MAC West: 6-12/5th.

Starters lost (3): Tony Barksdale, G (19.1 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.5 apg); Rod Brown, G (11.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 6.1 apg); Brad VanTimmeran, C (5.2 ppg, 6 rpg).

Others lost: Thadus Williams, G (11.6 ppg, 2.4 rpg); Robert Watson, F (9.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg); Emil Mulic, F (5.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 60 FG%); Virgil Singleton, G (5 ppg).

Starters returning (2): Taylor Bro, F, 6-7/So. (6.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg); Jon Powell, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg).

Other returnees: K.C. Cavette, G, 6-0/So.; Bronson

Nichols, G, 6-4/Sr.; Jesse Slauter, C/F, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: Reggie Berry, G, 6-4/Fr.; Maverick Carter, G, 6-4/Fr.; Anthony Kann, F, 6-7/Fr.; Nate Richie, G, 6-3/Fr.; Robbie Collum, G, 6-1/So. (JC); Terrance Slater, G, 6-5/So. (JC); Steve Reynolds, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: No program in the MAC will feature as much change as Western Michigan's. The Broncos have a new coach (McCullum) and only one returning back-court player (Cavette). The team also has only two scholarship players in its junior and senior classes. Besides plenty of new faces, the style of play will be drastically different, too. The team will implement an up tempo attack, but up tempo might masquerade as chaos early in the season as McCullum experiments with lineups. Look for Bro and Powell to assume much of the offensive load early.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Kalamazoo, Mich. **Home court:** University Arena (5,800).

Schedules

Akron

N18 Mt. Union
N28 at Oakland
D1-2 at Syracuse Tourn.
D6 Rhode Island
D9 Alabama*
D16 at West. Kentucky
D21 Cleveland State
D23 Wyoming
D27 Purdue
J3 at Buffalo
J6 at Kent State
J10 Western Michigan
J13 at Marshall
J17 Bowling Green
J20 at Ohio
J24 at Miami
J27 Eastern Michigan
J31 at Central Michigan
F3 Buffalo
F5 at Northern Illinois
F7 Toledo
F14 Ohio
F17 Miami
F21 at West. Michigan
F24 Kent State
F28 Ball State
M3 at Bowling Green
*Birmingham, Ala.

Ball State

N22 IUPUI
N25 at S. Ill.
N27 at Butler
D1-2 First Merchant Cl.*
D8-9 Indiana Classic
D16 Indiana St.
D30 IUPUI-Fort Wayne
J6 at Eastern Michigan
J10 Ohio
J13 Northern Illinois
J15 Western Michigan
J17 at Toledo
J22 at Bowling Green
J24 Marshall
J27 at Miami
J31 Kent State
F3 Eastern Michigan
F7 at Central Michigan
F11 Miami
F14 at Buffalo
F17 at Northern Illinois
F21 Central Michigan

F24 at West. Michigan

F28 at Akron

M3 Toledo

*Muncie, Ind.

Bowling Green

N21 Evansville
N27 at UNC-Wilmington.
D2 Duquesne
D6 at Illinois State
D9 Urbana
D13 at Michigan
D16 at Marist
D21 Wilmington College
D27 Michigan State*
J6 Central Michigan
J13 at Toledo
J17 at Akron
J20 Western Michigan
J22 Ball State
J27 at Kent State
F3 Miami
F7 at Ohio
F10 at Buffalo
F14 Marshall
F17 at Eastern Michigan
F21 Kent State
F24 at Miami
F26 Toledo
F28 at Marshall
M3 Akron
*Auburn Hills, Mich.

Buffalo

N17 Niagara
N20 at Canisius
N25 Farleigh Dickinson
N30 Canisius
D5 Duquesne
D17 at North Carolina
D21-22 SF Tournament
J3 Akron
J6 at Northern Illinois
J10 at Bowling Green
J13 at Central Michigan
J17 Kent State
J20 at Miami
J24 at West. Michigan
J27 Ohio
J31 at Northwestern
F3 at Akron
F5 Eastern Michigan
F7 at Marshall
F10 Bowling Green

F14 Ball State

F19 Toledo

F21 at Ohio

F24 Marshall

F28 at Kent State

M3 Miami

Central Michigan

N18 Spring Arbor
N21 at Purdue
N25 Illinois-Chicago
N29 at Drake
D3 Illinois State
D6 Loyola-Chicago
D9 Northern Iowa
D18 at Detroit
D21 Tri-State
J3 Ohio
J6 at Bowling Green
J10 at Miami
J13 Buffalo
J17 at West. Michigan
J20 at Eastern Michigan
J22 Marshall
J24 at Toledo
J31 Akron
F3 at Northern Illinois
F7 Ball State
F10 Western Michigan
F14 Toledo
F17 at Kent State
F21 at Ball State
F24 at Ohio
F28 Eastern Michigan
M3 Northern Illinois

Eastern Michigan

N20 Hampton
N25 at Detroit
N29 UW-Green Bay
D2 at Tennessee Tech
D6 IUPUI
D9 Iona*
D20 Chicago State
D23 Grambling
D30 at Michigan
J3 at Kent State
J6 Ball State
J10 Toledo
J15 Marshall
J17 at Northern Illinois
J20 Central Michigan
J24 Kent State
J27 at Akron

J29 Miami

F3 Ball State

F5 at Buffalo

F7 Western Michigan

F10 at Ohio

F17 Bowling Green

F21 at Toledo

F24 Northern Illinois

F28 at Central Michigan

M3 at West. Michigan

*Huntington, W.V.

Kent State

N25 at Arizona State
N29 Saint Bonaventure
D1-2 Coca Cola Classic*
D9 at UW-Green Bay
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D30 Xavier
J3 Eastern Michigan
J6 Akron
J8 at Ohio
J10 Northern Illinois
J17 at Buffalo
J20 at Marshall
J24 at Eastern Michigan
J27 Bowling Green
J31 at Ball State
F3 at Toledo
F7 Miami
F10 Marshall
F14 at West. Michigan
F17 Central Michigan
F21 at Bowling Green
F24 at Akron
F28 Buffalo
M3 Ohio
*Milwaukee

Marshall

N17 Charleston
N21 at Cincinnati
N27 Detroit
D2 at Dayton
D6 at Radford
D9 Niagara
D16 Winthrop
J3 Western Michigan
J6 at Miami
J9 West Virginia*
J13 Akron
J15 at Eastern Michigan
J17 Miami
J20 Kent State

J22 at Central Michigan

J24 at Ball State

J27 Toledo

J31 at Northern Illinois

F3 at Ohio

F7 Buffalo

F10 at Kent State

F14 at Bowling Green

F17 Ohio

F21 Northern Illinois

F24 at Buffalo

F28 Bowling Green

*Charleston, W.V.

Miami

N18 Xavier
N23 at Memphis
N24-25 San Juan S.O.
N30
D2 UW-Green Bay
D6 Dayton
D9 at Notre Dame
D19 at Wright State
D22 at George Mason
D30 UNC-Wilmington
J3 at Toledo
J6 Marshall
J10 Central Michigan
J13 at Ohio
J17 at Marshall
J20 Buffalo
J24 Akron
J27 Ball State
J29 at Eastern Michigan
J31 Western Michigan
F3 at Bowling Green
F7 at Kent State
F11 at Ball State
F14 Northern Illinois
F17 at Akron
F24 Bowling Green
F28 Ohio
M3 at Buffalo

Northern Illinois

N17-18 Tip-Off Classic*
N21 Wright State
N25 at Wisconsin
N28 at Illinois-Chicago
D6 Rockford
D21 at DePaul
D28 Fairfield
J3 Bowling Green
J6 Buffalo

J10 at Kent State

J13 at Ball State

J17 Eastern Michigan

J20 Toledo

J24 at Ohio

J27 at West. Michigan

J31 Marshall

F3 Central Michigan

F5 Akron

F10 at Toledo

F14 at Miami

F17 Ball State

F21 at Marshall

F24 at Eastern Michigan

F28 Western Michigan

M3 at Central Michigan

*Miami

Ohio

N22 Rio Grande
D2 Niagara
D6 at Virginia
D9 at Wisconsin
D12 at Duquesne
D16 at West. Michigan
D19 West Virginia
D22 at Oakland
D29-30 AZCentral Trn.*
J3 at Central Michigan
J8 Kent State
J10 at Ball State
J13 Miami
J20 Akron
J24 Northern Illinois
J27 at Buffalo
J31 at Toledo
J3 Marshall
F7 Bowling Green
F10 Eastern Michigan
F14 at Akron
F17 at Marshall
F21 Buffalo
F24 Central Michigan
F28 at Miami
M3 at Kent State
*Tempe, Ariz.

Toledo

N24-25 Mountain Energy Tourn.*
D2 George Mason
D6 Youngstown State
D9 at St. Bonaventure
D16 Oakland

D19-20 Trend Home Cl. ^

D23 Xavier

D30 Cincinnati

J3 Miami

J6 at West. Michigan

J10 at Eastern Michigan

J13 Bowling Green

J17 Ball State

J20 at Northern Illinois

J24 Central Michigan

J27 at Marshall

J31 Ohio

F3 Kent State

F7 at Akron

F10 Northern Illinois

F14 at Central Michigan

F17 Western Michigan

F19 at Buffalo

F21 Eastern Michigan

F26 at Bowling Green

M3 at Ball State

*Kansas City, Mo.

^Fresno, Calif.

Western Michigan

N18 Hampton
N21 at Michigan
N25 Richmond
N28 at Youngstown St.
D2 at Marist
D8-9 Indiana Classic
D16 Ohio
D21 Detroit
D30 Oakland
J3 at Marshall
J6 Toledo
J10 at Akron
J15 at Ball State
J17 Central Michigan
J20 at Bowling Green
J24 Buffalo
J27 Northern Illinois
J31 at Miami
F7 at Eastern Michigan
F10 at Central Michigan
F14 Kent State
F17 at Toledo
F21 Akron
F24 Ball State
F28 at Northern Illinois
M3 Eastern Michigan

Missouri Valley

RANK
12

1 CREIGHTON

National Rank: 52

Coach: Dana Altman (99-78, 6 years; 182-145 overall, 11 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-10. MVC: 11-7/4th. Lost to Auburn in NCAA Tournament Midwest first round.

Starters lost (2): Matt West, F (7 ppg, 47.9 FG%, 45.6 3%, 85.1 FT%); Donnie Johnson, F (7.2 ppg, 48.8 FG%).

Others lost: Nerijus Karlikanas, F (9.5 ppg, 46.2 FG%, 41.8 3%, 83.3 FT%).

Starters returning (3): Alan Huss, C, 6-9/Sr. (49.1 FG%); Ryan Sears, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 79.8 FT%, 2.4 spg); Ben Walker, G, 6-2/Sr. (12 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 46 FG%, 46.8 3%).

Other returnees: Kyle Korver, F, 6-7/So. (8.8 ppg, 47.5 FG%, 43.4 3%, 89.5 FT%); Terrell Taylor, G, 6-3/So. (7.4 ppg, 50.8 FG%, 80.5 FT%, 1.3 spg); Justin Haynes, F, 6-5/Sr. (60.4 FG%, 53.1 3-pt%, 68.1 FT%); Livan Pyfrom, C, 6-11/Sr. (50.6 FG%); John Klein, F, 6-6/Jr.

Top newcomers: Ismael Caro, G, 5-11/Fr.; Prentes Potts, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: The Bluejays' best offseason news came in late June, when Altman announced that he was staying put. The architect of a rebuilding project that produced NCAA Tournament berths the past two seasons, Altman had been courted by Miami to fill the opening left by Leonard Hamilton's resignation. Creighton insiders say Altman might have been headed south had the Hurricanes been quicker with a follow-up interview. He'll begin his seventh season with eight of the Bluejays' top 11 players back from a team that won 23 games, including three straight in the MVC tourney as a fourth seed. In a league in which success is usually dictated by guard play, Creighton has the best backcourt tandem in Sears and Walker. A four-year starter, Sears brings a fierce attitude to the court. Walker's athletic ability makes him a threat on the glass or from beyond the arc. Korver made a late run for honors as league freshman of the year last season and ranks as one of the best shooting big men in the Valley. He and Taylor, who might be the team's best pure talent, will be counted on for greater contributions. Altman's main concern heading into the season will be replacing starting forwards and team leaders Johnson and West. Neither was a superstar, but their value to the Bluejays far exceeded their individual talents.

Last league title: 1991.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Omaha, Neb. **Home court:** Omaha Civic Auditorium (9,493).

2 INDIANA STATE

National Rank: 74

Coach: Royce Waltman (53-33, 3 years; 242-119 overall, 13 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 22-10. MVC: 14-4/1st. Lost to Texas in NCAA West first round.

Starters lost (1): Nate Green, G (13.8 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 78.4 FT%, 4.4 apg).

Others lost: Abasi Thompson, G (6.1 ppg); Ben Anderson, C.

Starters returning (4): Kelyn Block, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 78.7 FT%, 1.3 spg); Djibril Kante, F, 6-7/Jr. (50 FG%); Michael Menser, G, 5-11/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 45.5 3%, 1.65 spg); Matt Renn, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 45.4 FG%).

Other returnees: Terence Avery, C, 6-9/Jr.; Matt Broermann, G/F, 6-5/So.; Brian Giesen, F, 6-9/Sr. (48.4 FG%, 80.0 FT%); Jimmie Metcalfe, G, 5-10/Sr. (50 FG%, 50.0 3 pt%).

Top newcomers: Matt Berry, G, 6-5/Fr.; Marcus Howard, G, 6-3/Fr.; Michael Kernan, C, 6-11/RFr.; Barry Welsh, G, 6-0/Fr.

Outlook: Terre Haute celebrated its first championship season in 21 years last February, and the Sycamores have the foundation to make another run this season. The key to Indiana State's hopes for successive titles is how the team handles the departure of Valley player of the year Green, who contributed as a scorer, rebounder and defender. Indiana State's four other starters are back, with the only other significant loss being forward Thompson, a part-time starter. Underrated Renn is a warrior in the paint and on the boards and will team with the 6-7 Kante. Block, at guard, is developing into one of the league's most exciting players. Menser, a four-year starter, is a fearless shooter. Renn, Kante, Block and Menser all have a chance to be counted among the better players at their positions in the league this season. Giesen, Avery and Broermann were valuable reserves last season who will have to step up even more. Like most of the teams in the league, Indiana State struggled with inside inconsistency that left it relying on the perimeter game when the going got tough. The team is hoping 6-11 red-shirt freshman Kernan can help in that area, but at just 180 pounds, he still needs to bulk up.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1979.

Site: Terre Haute, Ind. **Home court:** Hulman Center (10,200).

3 EVANSVILLE

National Rank: 78

Coach: Jim Crews (273-172, 15 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 18-12. MVC 9-9/6th.

Starters lost (1): Kwane James, C (5.1 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 46.1 FG%).

Others lost: Richie Schueler, G; Matt Vidoni, C.

Starters returning (4): Craig Snow, F, 6-7/Sr. (16.3 ppg, 6 rpg, 40.9 3%, 80.8 FT%); Adam Seitz, F, 6-3/Jr. (13.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 51.3 FG%, 41.9 3%, 75.2 FT%); Jeremy Stanton, G, 6-1/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 45.7 FG%, 77.6 FT%, 5.1 apg); Clint Keown, G, 6-1/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 79.7 FT%, 1.4 spg).

Other returnees: Kyle Runyan, F/G, 6-6/Sr. (6.6 ppg,

BY STEVE PIVOVAR
Omaha World-Herald

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Creighton* | 7. Illinois State |
| 2. Indiana State | 8. Southwest Missouri |
| 3. Evansville | 9. Drake |
| 4. Southern Illinois | 10. Wichita State |
| 5. Northern Iowa | |
| 6. Bradley | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason ALL-MVC

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tarise Bryson, Illinois State	6-1	175	Sr.
G	Ryan Sears, Creighton	6-0	185	Sr.
G	Robbie Sieverding, N. Iowa	6-0	180	Sr.
F	Craig Snow, Evansville	6-7	215	Sr.
F/C	Scott Brakebill, Southwest Mo.	6-8	220	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Michael Menser, Indiana State	5-11	170	Sr.
G	Kent Williams, Southern Illinois	6-2	173	So.
G	Ben Walker, Creighton	6-2	205	Sr.
F	Joe Breakenridge, N. Iowa	6-6	235	Sr.
F	Matt Renn, Indiana State	6-6	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Craig Snow, F, Evansville

Newcomer of the Year

Traves Wilson, F, Illinois State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Craig Snow, Evansville

Best rebounder: Joe Breakenridge, Northern Iowa

Best playmaker: Ryan Sears, Creighton

Best defender: Jeremy Stanton, Evansville

Best leaper: Ben Walker, Creighton

Most versatile: Ben Walker, Creighton

Most flamboyant: Tarise Bryson, Illinois State

Best NBA prospect: Tarise Bryson, Illinois State

78.7 FT%); Chuck Hedde, C, 6-8/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 58.8 FG%); Faruk Mujzinovic, C, 6-9/So. (51.6 FG%, 78.8 FT%); Kris Stoneking, G, 6-3/Sr.

Top newcomers: Clint Cuffie, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Lucious Wagner, G, 6-5/Fr.; Mark Allaria, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Purple Aces went from being an NCAA Tournament team in 1999 to a sixth-place finish in the league race last season, a surprising drop considering Evansville had four starters back. This year, Snow tops a returning cast that includes Seitz, the leading vote-getter on the league's most-improved team, and heady playmaker Stanton, who averaged more than five assists a game last season and is also one of the Valley's top defenders. Hedde, swingman Runyan and Keown add experience to the lineup. Mujzinovic and Dan Lytle, a 6-10 redshirt freshman, are being counted on to provide much-needed inside muscle. With the top six scorers returning, the seven newcomers on the roster might find playing time hard to come by, but expect Cuffie and Allaria to get a look.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Evansville, Ind. **Home court:** Roberts Stadium (12,300).

4 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS National Rank: 91

Coach: Bruce Weber (35-25, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 20-13. MVC: 12-6/3rd. Lost to Brigham Young in NIT second round.

Starters lost (3): Chris Thunell, F (10.8 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 80.8 FT%); Derrick Tilmon, C (8.2 ppg); Ricky Collum, G (9.6 ppg).

Starters returning (2): Brandon Mells, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 40.5 3%); Kent Williams, G, 6-2/So. (13.3 ppg, 41.5 FG%).

Other returnees: Joshua Cross, F, 6-4/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg); Jermaine Dearman, F, 6-8/So. (6.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Brad Korn, F, 6-9/So.; Abel Schrader, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (8 ppg, 76.3 FT%).

Top newcomers: Sylvester Willis, F/C, 6-6/Fr.; Marcus Belcher, G, 6-0/Jr.; Darren Brooks, G, 6-3/Fr.; Tyrese Buie, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Toshiy Harvey, G/F, 6-3/So. (JC); Josh Warren, F/C, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: The Salukis took the next step in their second year under Weber's guidance by playing into the postseason, making it to the second round of the NIT. Williams, the league newcomer of the year and the first freshman to lead Southern Illinois in scoring since 1968, paces a group of nine returning letterman that also includes cat-quick guard Mells and Cross, the Valley's sixth man of the year. Weber could look to a group of six fresh faces to fill the void left by the departure of starters Thunell and Tilmon up front and point guard Collum. Willis needs to develop patience, but he has the muscle to be a force inside. Newcomers Belcher, Brooks, Buie, Harvey and Warren will get long looks, as will returning lettermen Dearman, Korn and Schrader.

Last league title: 1994 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Carbondale, Ill. **Home court:** SIU Arena (10,000).

5 NORTHERN IOWA National Rank: 114

Coach: Sam Weaver (23-33, 2 years, 43-91 overall, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-15. MVC: 7-11/7th.

Starters lost (2): Kelvin Hill, G (8.4 ppg); Cory Jenkins, F (9.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 57.6 FG%).

Others lost: Tyler Peterson, C.

Starters returning (4): Joe Breakenridge, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 52.8 FG%); Aaron Middendorf, F, 6-5/Jr. (5.6 ppg); Robbie Sieverding, G, 6-0/Sr. (16.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 84.2 FT%, 1.31 spg); Andy Woodley, G, 5-10/So.

Other returnees: Martin Coon, G, 6-4/Jr.; Ryan Paulsen, G, 6-0/So.; Adam Wilde, F, 6-6/Sr.; Josh Wright, G, 6-0/So.

Top newcomers: Chris Foster, G, 6-0/Fr.; Erik Smith, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Colorado State); Damond Gregory, C, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Texas-El Paso); Trey Austin, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Houston); William Hagans, G, 6-1/So. (JC).

Outlook: Forced to play shorthanded much of last season because of injuries and player defections, the Panthers will start preseason practice with a roster bulging with 19 players. Eleven will be suiting up in Northern Iowa gear for the first time, including transfers Smith, Gregory, Austin and Hagans. All but Austin will have to wait until the second semester to become eligible, but the four have been practicing with the Panthers since December. Although depth won't be a problem, finding the right mix might rank as the biggest challenge for Weaver. He has a solid nucleus that includes Sieverding and overachieving Breakenridge. Sieverding, who likely will move back to off-guard now that Woodley has returned from a broken foot that ended his season last December, was named to the all-Valley second team and averaged 16.3 points a game last season despite play-

ing most of the conference season with a stress fracture in his leg. Breakenridge will try to become the first player to lead the league in rebounding for three straight season since Wichita State's Xavier McDaniel did it from 1983 through 1985.

Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Cedar Falls, Iowa. **Home court:** UNI-Dome (10,000).

6 BRADLEY National Rank: 124

Coach: Jim Molinari (146-120, 9 years; 188-137 overall, 11 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 14-16. MVC: 10-8/5th.

Starters lost (3): Rob Dye, G (16.6 ppg, 83.1 FT%, 2 spg); Aba Koita, C (5.2 ppg, 4 rpg,); Eric Roberson, G (9 ppg, 5.6 rpg).

Others lost: David Selby, G (8.8 ppg); Angelo Flanders, F.

Starters returning (2): Eddie Cage, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 4 rpg); Jerome Robinson, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 45.3 FG%).

Other returnees: Jermaine Brown, F, 6-5/Jr.; Kevin Clancy, G, 6-3/Jr.; Andre Corbitt, G, 6-5/So.; Reggie Hall, F, 6-6/Sr.

Top newcomers: Lee Biddlecome, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Phillip Gilbert, G, 6-3/Fr.; Marcello Robinson, G, 5-11/Fr.

Outlook: Molinari's biggest task is replacing star guards Dye and Roberson, who averaged a combined 25.6 points, 9 rebounds, 5.8 assists and 4.3 steals per game last season. Despite their departure, the Braves' strength rests in the backcourt with senior Jerome Robinson, sophomore Corbitt and swingman Brown, the younger brother of NBA veteran guard Randy Brown. Brown is an explosive leaper who needs to become more consistent. Robinson is ready to step out of the shadows cast by Dye and Roberson. Added to the mix is Marcello Robinson, the Braves' first true point guard since Billy Wright graduated in 1996. Fifth-year senior Cage is Bradley's most experienced frontcourt player but needs to improve his modest averages of last season. As usual, the Braves must play solid defense to help them overcome some of their shooting deficiencies.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Peoria, Ill. **Home court:** Carver Arena (10,875).

7 ILLINOIS STATE National Rank: 132

Coach: Tom Richardson (10-20, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 10-20. MVC: 5-13/18th.

Starters lost (2): Ryan Crowley, F (6.1 ppg); P.J. Smith, F (9.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg).

Others lost: Marcus Betts, G, Joe Hein, F.

Starters returning (3): Rich Beyers, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Tarise Bryson, G, 6-1/Sr. (19.3 ppg, 39.6 3%, 4.1 rpg, 3.5 spg); Andy Strandmark, C, 6-11/So. (4.0 rpg).

Other returnees: Brett Gillan, G, 6-4/So., Shawn Jeppson, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.5 ppg, 43.4 3%); Ishmael Joyce, G, 6-2/So.; Chad Mazanowski, F, 6-6/Jr. (2.6 rpg).

Top newcomers: Vince Greene, G, 5-9/Fr.; Jason Hammock, F, 6-6/Fr.; Cedric Knight, F, 6-6/Fr.; Dirk Williams, F, 6-8/Fr.; Shredrick Ford, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Randy Rice, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Traves Wilson, G, 6-3/So. (transfer/Arizona).

Outlook: Richardson's first season was a nightmare journey filled with injuries, inconsistency and inexperience that left the Redbirds reeling. Among the few bright spots last season was the play of Bryson, who became the second player in school history to reach 1,000 points in two seasons.

Bryson, a first-team all-Valley pick, is back, as are seven other lettermen. The arrival of a talented group of guards should take some of the pressure off Bryson and Jeppson. Rice is expected to fill the void at point guard and could get some assistance from Greene if he meets eligibility requirements. Strandmark has shown potential in the middle. Much is expected from Arizona transfer Wilson. If he can step up and the other newcomers fill some gaps up front, the Redbirds should be improved. If not, it could be another long season in Normal.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Normal, Ill. **Home court:** Redbird Arena (10,200).

8 SOUTHWEST MISSOURI National Rank: 139

Coach: Barry Hinson (23-11, 1 year; 59-34 overall, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 23-11. MVC: 13-5/2nd.

Starters lost (4): William Fontleroy, G (9.8 ppg); Kevin Ault, G (10.66 ppg, 1.9 spg); Ron Bruton, F (6.1 ppg, 6.7 rpg,); Allen Phillips, F (13 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 39.9 3%, 78.1 FT%).

Others lost: Nic Wright, G; Steve Ausler, F; Brian George, C; Eric Judd, G.

Starters returning (1): Scott Brakebill, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 52.5 FG%, 38.9 3%, 1.20 bpg).

Other returnees: Matt Rueter, C, 6-8/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 52.4 FG%); Travis Walk, G/F, 6-5/So.; Matt Engstrom, C, 6-9/So.; Charles Gaines, F, 6-7/So. (47.1 FG%); Kurt Spurgeon, G/F, 6-5/So.; Josh Hume, G, 6-4/So. (RS).

Top newcomers: Luke Dobbins, G, 6-1/Fr.; Monwell Randle, F, 6-7/Fr.; Donnie Williams, G, 6-2/Fr.; Trevor Fisher, G, 6-1/Fr.; Robert Yanders, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Mike Wallace, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Dano Novak, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Valley's biggest optimist, coach Barry Hinson, will need to stay upbeat during what shapes up to be a drastic rebuilding season. The Bears must replace four-year starters Ault and Fontleroy, leading scorer Phillips, leading rebounder Bruton and 3-point specialist Judd. They, along with Brakebill and Rueter, accounted for 90 percent of the minutes played and 93 percent of the points last season. Brakebill gives Hinson a big man with player of the year potential to build around. Rueter has proved he's an effective banger inside with an above-average shooting touch. Gaines has shown the most promise out of a group of little-used reserves last season that included Walk, Engstrom and Spurgeon. All will have to contribute.

Newcomers Yanders, Wallace and Novak are part of a recruiting class that Hinson says could turn out to be special. For Hinson's sake, he had better be right, or the winter could be a hard one.

Last league title: 1990 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Springfield, Mo. **Home court:** Hammons Student Center (8,846).

9 DRAKE National Rank: 177

Coach: Kurt Kanaskie (26-85, 4 years, 233-192, overall 15 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-18. MVC: 4-14/10th.

Starters lost (3): Aaron Deeter, C, (10.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg); Dontay Harris, F, (11.5 ppg, 6 rpg); Matt Woodley, G, (11.4 ppg).

Others lost: Armand LeVasseur, G, (5.8 ppg).

Starters returning (2): Lamont Evans, G, 6-4/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 3.0 rpg); Joey Gaw, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg);

Other returnees: Greg Danielson, F/C, 6-9/So.; Andrew Pleick, G, 6-5/So.; Justin Ohl, F,

6-5/Sr.; Aaron Thomas, G, 6-4/Sr.

Top newcomers: Andry Sola, F, 6-7/So.

(transfer/George Washington); Alberto Jempierre, F, 6-7/Jr.; Aaron Knight, G, 6-3/Jr.; Luke McDonald, G, 6-5/Fr.; Mike O'Neill, C, 6-10/Jr.; Dontae Smith, G, 6-2/Jr.

Outlook: The Bulldogs' 11-18 record last season was misleading in that it fails to illustrate the latest progress in the daunting rebuilding effort undertaken by Kanaskie. The victory total was the most for the Bulldogs since the 1994-95 squad won 12, and the team won its first road game in more than four seasons. Still, a 3-14 finish took much of the luster off those accomplishments, and Kanaskie faces trying to continue moving forward without the Bulldogs' top three scoring threats from a year ago—hardnosed guard Woodley and steady but unspectacular inside players Harris and Deeter. Evans, who played down the stretch despite a broken bone in his wrist, provides some much-needed athletic ability and is the cornerstone of Kanaskie's plans. Veterans Gaw, Ohl and Thomas add experience, but the six newcomers will have to pick up the 33 points a game averaged by Woodley, Harris and Deeter. The best of the arrivals could be Sola, who played on George Washington's 1999 NCAA Tournament team. O'Neill gives the Bulldogs the inside threat they have been

lacking.

Last league title: 1971.

Last NCAA appearance: 1971.

Site: Des Moines, Iowa. **Home court:** The Drake Knapp Center (7,002).

10 WICHITA STATE

National Rank: 182

Coach: Mark Turgeon (first year).

1999-2000 record: 12-17, MVC: 5-13/T8th.

Starters lost (3): Jason Perez, G (20.2 ppg, 7 rpg, 3 apg); Darrin Williams, F, (9.1 ppg, 6.1 rpg); Carl Lemmons, G, (4.0 ppg, 2.0 rpg)

Starters returning (2): Troy Mack, F, 6-8/Sr.; Craig Steven, G, 6-2/Jr.

Other returnees: Terrell Benton, G, 5-10/Sr. (12 ppg, 83.0 FT%); Michael Phillips, G, 5-10/Sr.; O.J. Robinson, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.6 ppg 4.3 rpg); Josh Drumgole, G, 6-5/Fr.; Willie Davis, F, 6-8/Jr. (46.2 FG%); Justin White, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Matt Clark, G, 6-0/Fr.; Duke Tshomba, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Curtis McFall, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Adam Grundvig, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Shocker nation has turned to a Jayhawk, former Kansas guard Turgeon, to get things back on track. Despite having Valley scoring champions

Maurice Evans and Jason Perez the past two seasons, Wichita State went 25-34, sealing the fate of former coach Randy Smithson. Turgeon doesn't have anyone with the talents of Evans, who transferred to Texas after the '98-99 season, or Perez, who finished sixth on the school's scoring list. Benton blossomed last season as the second option in the Shockers' attack, but he will have added scoring responsibilities and will need to take on added scoring responsibilities to put some pop in this team. After Benton, the Shockers are short on talent—no other returning player averaged more than 4.6 points per game—and size. The average height on the roster is 6-4, with Mack, Davis and Grundvig the tallest at 6-8. Turgeon signed three players this spring in Duke Tshomba, Curtis McFall and Matt Clark but lost a pair of highly regarded JC recruits in Tony Atchison and Jerome Trawick. The pair played at Central Florida Community College for Gene Smithson, who is Randy Smithson's father.

Last league title: 1983.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Wichita, Kan. **Home court:** Levitt Arena (10,423).

Schedules

<p>Bradley</p> <p>N22 Alaska N24-25 Spartan Coca-Cola Cl. N29 at Georgia State D2 Louisiana Tech D20 Western Illinois D23 at Indiana State D30 IUPUI J3 SW Missouri State J6 Creighton J10 at Southern Illinois J13 Evansville J16 at Northern Iowa J21 at SW Missouri State J24 Southern Illinois J27 at Evansville J31 Northern Iowa F3 at Drake F6 at Illinois State F10 Wichita State F14 at Creighton F17 Indiana State F21 Illinois State F24 at Wichita State F26 Drake</p>	<p>F14 Bradley F17 Wyoming F21 at Northern Iowa F24 at Drake F26 SW Missouri St.</p> <p>Drake</p> <p>N21 Iowa N25 at Mississippi Valley St N27 Delaware State N29 Central Michigan D4 at Illinois-Chicago D6 Arkansas-Pine Bluff D15 Oral Roberts D17 at Iowa State D23 Western Illinois J2 at Wichita State J6 at Evansville J11 Wichita State J13 SW Missouri State J17 Illinois State J20 Northern Iowa J23 at Indiana State J27 at Southern Illinois J31 Evansville F3 Bradley F7 at Creighton F10 at Northern Iowa F12 Southern Illinois F15 Indiana State F18 at Illinois State F21 at SW Missouri St F24 Creighton F26 at Bradley</p>	<p>J20 at Illinois State J24 Creighton J27 Bradley J31 at Drake F3 Southern Illinois F6 at Wichita State F10 at SW Missouri St. F12 Illinois State F15 Wichita State F21 at Indiana State F24 at Southern Illinois F26 Northern Iowa</p> <p>Illinois State</p> <p>N25 Chicago State N30 at Kansas D3 at Central Michigan D6 Bowling Green D9 UT-Martin D17 Texas-San Antonio D23 IUPUI D28 Georgia Southern D31 at Western Illinois J6 Indiana State J8 Creighton J11 at SW Missouri St. J14 at Southern Illinois J17 at Drake J20 Evansville J24 SW Missouri St. J27 at Creighton J29 at Wichita State F3 Northern Iowa F6 Bradley F10 at Indiana State F12 at Evansville F15 Southern Illinois F18 Drake F21 at Bradley F24 at Northern Iowa F26 Wichita State</p>	<p>D20 at IUPUI D23 Bradley D30 Appalachian State J4 Northern Iowa J6 at Illinois State J11 at Creighton J14 Wichita State J17 at Evansville J20 at Southern Illinois J23 Drake J27 at Wichita State J31 SW Missouri State F4 Creighton F7 at Northern Iowa F10 Illinois State F15 at Drake F17 at Bradley F21 Evansville F24 at SW Missouri State F26 Southern Illinois</p> <p>Northern Iowa</p> <p>N22 at Montana N27 Iowa State N30 Texas-Pan American D2 Jackson State D5 at Iowa D9 at Central Michigan D20-22 Puerto Rico Shootout D29-30 Oneida Classic J2 at Southern Illinois J4 at Indiana State J7 at Wichita State J11 Evansville J14 at Creighton J16 Bradley J20 at Drake J24 Wichita State J27 SW Missouri State J31 at Bradley F3 at Illinois State F7 Indiana State F10 Drake F13 at SW Missouri St. F17 Southern Illinois F21 Creighton F24 Illinois State F26 at Evansville</p>	<p>Southern Illinois</p> <p>N17 Long Beach State N21 Saint Louis N25 Ball State D2 at Indiana D5 at SE Missouri St. D9 at Illinois-Chicago D17 Murray State D21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic D31 St. Mary's J2 Northern Iowa J6 at SW Missouri St. J10 Bradley J14 Illinois State J17 at Wichita State J20 Indiana State J24 at Bradley J27 Drake J31 at Creighton F3 at Evansville F7 SW Missouri State F10 Creighton F12 at Drake F15 at Illinois State F17 at Northern Iowa F21 Wichita State F24 Evansville F26 at Indiana State</p>	<p>F7 at Southern Illinois F10 Evansville F13 Northern Iowa F17 at Wichita State F21 Drake F24 Indiana State F26 at Creighton *Kansas City, Mo.</p> <p>Wichita State</p> <p>N21 Kansas State N26 Texas-Arlington N30 Washington D4 Tennessee State D6 Oklahoma State D9 IUPUI D16 at Creighton D18 Hampton D22 at Tulsa D30 at Wyoming J2 Drake J7 Northern Iowa J11 at Drake J14 at Indiana State J17 Southern Illinois J20 Creighton J24 at Northern Iowa J27 Indiana State J29 Illinois State F3 at SW Missouri State F6 Evansville F10 at Bradley F15 at Evansville F17 SW Missouri State F21 at Southern Illinois F24 Bradley F26 at Illinois State</p>
<p>Creighton</p> <p>N20 Western Illinois N24-26 Mountain Energy Tr. D1 at Wyoming D6 Colorado State D9 Georgia State D16 Wichita State D19 at Tulsa D23 Miss. Valley State D30 Evansville J2 at Nebraska J6 at Bradley J8 at Illinois State J11 Indiana State J14 Northern Iowa J17 at SW Missouri St. J20 at Wichita State J24 at Evansville J27 Illinois State J31 Southern Illinois F4 at Indiana State F7 Drake F10 at Southern Illinois</p>	<p>Evansville</p> <p>N18 Western Kentucky N25 at UW-Green Bay N29 Georgia Southern D2 Butler D5 at Eastern Illinois D9 SW Missouri St. D16 Elon D20-22 San Juan Shootout D30 at Creighton J1 Tennessee State J6 Drake J11 at Northern Iowa J13 at Bradley J17 Indiana State</p>	<p>Indiana State</p> <p>N23-25 Puerto Rico Shootout N29 Indiana D2 Austin Peay D6 Butler D9 at Western Illinois D16 at Ball State D18 Elon</p>		<p>SW Missouri State</p> <p>N18 at New Orleans D1-2 Pizza Hut Classic D5 Tulsa D9 at Evansville D16 at SE Missouri State D20 Missouri-Kansas City D23 at Saint Louis D28 Stetson D30 Kansas* J3 at Bradley J6 Southern Illinois J11 Illinois State J13 at Drake J17 Creighton J21 Bradley J24 at Illinois State J27 at Northern Iowa J31 at Indiana State F3 Wichita State</p>	

Midwestern Collegiate

RANK
13

1 DETROIT National Rank: 42

Coach: Perry Watson (123-76, 7 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 20-12. MCC: 8-6/3rd.

Starters lost (1): Desmond Ferguson, G (14 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 43.1 FG%, 40.2 3%).

Others lost: Daniel Whye, F (6 ppg, 49.5 FG%, 40 3%); Julian Van Dyke, F.

Starters returning (4): Rashad Phillips, G, 5-10/Sr. (23 ppg, 40.5 3%, 87 FT%, 5.28 apg, 1.6 spg); Willie Green, G, 6-4/So. (8.4 ppg, 38.2 3%, 81.3 FT%); Marc Mazur, C, 6-10/Jr. (47.6 FG%); Terrell Riggs, F, 6-7/So. (10.4 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 56.8 FG%).

Other returnees: Darius Belin, G, 6-3/Jr. (1.2 spg); Walter Craft, C, 6-11/Sr.

Top newcomers: Thomas Dillard, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Mark Maxwell, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Greg Grays, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/Penn State).

Outlook: Phillips' decision to return for his senior year instead of fleeing to the NBA was the biggest offseason news in the MCC. It swung the balance of power back to the Titans, who narrowly missed the postseason last year. Phillips, the MCC Player of the Year, can take over a game at any time. Adding Penn State transfer Grays helps the backcourt. Center is the only weakness. Detroit needs better production from Craft and Mazur. Riggs is a high-percentage, low-post scorer. Green is a versatile perimeter player. Watson again has kept some of Detroit's best talent at home and successfully molded exceptional athletes into complete players who play hard and together on defense.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Detroit. **Home court:** Calihan Hall (8,837).

2 BUTLER National Rank: 60

Coach: Thad Matta (first year).

1999-2000 record: 23-8. MCC: 12-2/1st. Lost to Florida in NCAA East first round.

Starters lost (1): Mike Marshall, F (8.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 56.7 FG%, 1.2 spg).

Others lost: Andrew Graves, G (8.1 ppg, 90.8 FT%).

Starters returning (4): LaVall Jordan, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 45.6 FG%, 38.9 3%, 80.6 FT%, 1.2 spg); Rylan Hainje, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.4 ppg, 48.9 FG%, 4.6 rpg); Thomas Jackson, G, 5-9/Jr. (9.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 5.2 apg, 1.4 spg); Scott Robisch, C, 6-11/Sr. (8 ppg, 52.5 FG%, 79.3 FT%).

Other returnees: Joel Cornette, F/C, 6-10/So. (6.3 ppg, 47.9 FG%, 1.2 bpg); Darnell Archey, G, 6-1/So. (5.7 ppg, 47.9 FG%, 45.5 3%, 78.9 FT%); Mike Moore, F/C, 6-10/So.; Lewis Curry, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Duane Lightfoot Jr., G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Nick Gardner, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: The face of Butler basketball changed rapidly after the MCC champs' first-round, heartbreaking loss to Florida in the NCAA Tournament. Coach Barry Collier left for Nebraska, and players Graves and Marshall—the winningest senior class in school history—graduated. Butler hired assistant Matta, who will continue Collier's defensive philosophy. Replacing Marshall, the team's heart and soul, might be tougher. The steady backcourt of Jackson and Jordan should give Butler leadership. Hainje and Robisch

give the Bulldogs four legitimate scorers. Archey is the best streak-shooter in the league. All that could be enough to challenge for a league title and a fifth straight postseason bid.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Indianapolis, Ind. **Home court:** Hinkle Fieldhouse (11,043).

3 WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE National Rank: 117

Coach: Bo Ryan (15-14, 1 year; 368-90 overall, 16 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-14. MCC: 6-8, T4th.

Starters lost (1): Shaun Fountain, G (11.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg)

Others lost: Adrian Coffey, F.

Starters returning (4): Chad Angeli, C, 6-9/Sr. (16.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 56.4 FG%, 78.5 FT%); Clay Tucker, F, 6-3/So. (13.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.4 spg); Kalomba Kadima, G, 6-2/So. (4.2 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1 spg); Ronnie Jones, G, 5-9/So. (9.3 ppg).

Other returnees: Jason Frederick, G, 6-4/So. (8.2 ppg); Dan Weisse, G, 5-11/So.; Mike Sowder, C, 6-9/Sr.; Justin Lettenberger, F, 6-5/So.; Reggie Wheeler, F, 6-5/Sr.

Top newcomers: Nathan Mielke, F/C, 6-11/Jr.; Kevin Schifferer, F, 6-7/Fr.; Dylan Page, F, 6-8/Fr.; Damien Williams, F, 6-9/Fr.; James Wright, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: In his first season, Ryan turned this perennial loser into a contender. But it will be tougher to go from 15 wins to 20 than it was to go from eight to 15. The Panthers get nearly everyone back. Angeli is the best big man in the league and has a knack for getting to the foul line. Tucker can flat out score. Jones and Weisse should have a better command of how to run the team. The Panthers added much-needed size by signing four players 6-7 or taller. More important, Ryan, who won four Division III national titles at Wisconsin-Platteville, has the Panthers believing they can win.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Milwaukee. **Home court:** Klotsche Center (5,000).

4 CLEVELAND STATE National Rank: 153

Coach: Rolie Massimino (51-62, four years; 476-340 overall, 27 years overall; 20-10 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 16-14. MCC: 9-5/2nd.

Starters lost (2): Damon Stringer G (19.1 ppg, 37.2 3%, 84.3 FT%); James Madison G (13 ppg, 78.3 FT%).

Others lost: ; Ricardo Crumble C; David Barrett (62.5 FG%); Joe Lofton F.

Starters returning (3): Kevin Ross F, 6-8/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Doc Taylor G, 6-5/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 46.4 FG%, 80.7 FT%); Anthony Jackson F, 6-8/Sr.

Other returnees: Jamal Harris G, 6-1/Sr. (7.8 ppg); Tahrie Grosley F, 6-8/So.; Sonny Johnson G, 6-5/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Theo Dixon G/F, 6-6/210.

Top newcomers: Jermaine Robinson G, 6-2/So.; Percell Coles G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: Massimino hasn't turned CSU around as expected. He had hoped to have guard Stringer back for another season, but the NCAA denied his appeal for another year of eligibility. But the Vikings are still dangerous. Bruising forwards Jackson and Ross are the league's most formidable frontcourt. The return of Dixon, who missed last

By ROB DEMOVSKY

Green Bay Press-Gazette

Predictions

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Detroit* | 6. Wisconsin-Green Bay |
| 2. Butler | 7. Loyola |
| 3. Wisconsin-Milwaukee | 8. Illinois-Chicago |
| 4. Cleveland State | |
| 5. Wright State | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-MCC

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Rashad Phillips, Detroit	5-10	160	Sr.
G	Thomas Jackson, Butler	5-9	165	Jr.
F	Kevin Melson, Wright State	6-6	195	Sr.
C	Chad Angeli, Wisc.-Milwaukee	6-9	240	Sr.
C	Scott Robisch, Butler	6-11	225	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	LaVall Jordan, Butler	6-2	185	Sr.
G	Willie Green, Detroit	6-4	188	So.
G	Jerrell Parker, Loyola	6-4	210	So.
F	Mike King, Wisconsin-Green Bay	6-8	235	So.
F	Rylan Hainje, Butler	6-6	235	Jr.

Player of the Year

Rashad Phillips, G, Detroit

Newcomer of the Year

Greg Grays, G, Detroit

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Darnell Archey, Butler
Best rebounder: Maurice Brown, Illinois-Chicago
Best playmaker: Rashad Phillips, Detroit
Best defender: LaVall Jordan, Butler
Best leaper: Rylan Hainje, Butler
Most versatile: Kevin Melson, Wright State
Most flamboyant: Rashad Phillips, Detroit
Best NBA prospect: Rashad Phillips, Detroit

season with a back injury, should be a boost. The biggest question: Can newcomers Robinson and Coles become quality point guards?

Last league title: 1993 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Cleveland. **Home court:** Goodman Arena (13,810).

5 WRIGHT STATE National Rank: 168

Coach: Ed Schilling (30-53, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-17. MCC: 6-8/T4th.

Starters lost: None

Others lost: Steve Yeagle, G; Louis Holmes, G; Onome Scott-Emuakpor, F.

Starters returning (5): Marcus May, G, 5-10/Jr.

(11.6 ppg, 79.5 FT%, 38.5 3%, 1.8 spg); Joe Bills, G, 6-0/So. (4.2 ppg, 36/8 3%); Kevin Melson, F, 6-6/Sr. (18.6 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 46.4 FG%, 1.2 spg); Thomas Hope, F, 6-9/So. (4.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Israel Sheinfeld, C, 6-10/Jr. (17 ppg, 54.3 rpg, 77.4 FT%, 7.7 rpg).

Other returnees: Tyson Freeman, G, 5-11/Jr. (79.3 FT%); Bruno Petersons, C, 7-0/Sr.

Top newcomers: Braden Bushman, F, 6-6/Fr.; Michael Doles, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ross McGregor, C, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: Every year it seems Wright State is poised to break out and move into the MCC's upper half. But the Raiders haven't achieved that under Schilling. With the MCC Tournament in Dayton, he could use a good year to help his job security. The tools are seemingly in place with potential all-conference players in Melson and Sheinfeld and a solid point guard in May. That threesome is as good

West Coast

RANK
14

By **HANK WESCH**

San Diego Union-Tribune

Predictions

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Pepperdine* | 6. Portland |
| 2. Gonzaga* | 7. St. Mary's |
| 3. San Diego | 8. Loyola Marymount |
| 4. San Francisco | |
| 5. Santa Clara | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-West Coast

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brian Jones, Santa Clara	6-3	195	Sr.
G	Brandon Armstrong, Pepperdine	6-4	180	Jr.
F	Casey Calvary, Gonzaga	6-8	235	Sr.
F	Kelvin Gibbs, Pepperdine	6-6	270	Sr.
F	Darrell Tucker, San Francisco	6-9	215	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Travis Andrews, Portland	6-3	190	Sr.
G	Andre Laws, San Diego	6-1	180	Jr.
F	Zach Gourde, Gonzaga	6-8	249	So.
F	Elton Mashack, Loyola Mary.	6-5	210	Sr.
F	James Holmes, Santa Clara	6-8	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Casey Calvary, F, Gonzaga

Newcomer of the Year

Dan Dickau, G, Gonzaga

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Ryan Jones, Portland
Best rebounder: Casey Calvary, Gonzaga
Best playmaker: Brian Jones, Santa Clara
Best defender: Cameron Rigby, San Diego
Best leaper: Casey Calvary, Gonzaga
Most versatile: Darrell Tucker, San Francisco
Most flamboyant: Brandon Armstrong, Pepperdine
Best NBA prospect: Casey Calvary, Gonzaga

senior on the Dons' roster last year). But there are plenty of others with size and experience, specifically Brewer and Lee up front. Guard play was sometimes a sore point for Mathews last year. He'll feel better if Thomas and Russell have senior seasons approaching the potential they have flashed as underclassmen.
Last league title: 1981.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: San Francisco. **Home court:** War Memorial Gym (5,300).

5 SANTA CLARA National Rank: 108

Coach: Dick Davey (140-90, 8 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-12; WCC: 9-5/4th.

Starters lost (2): Nathan Fast, G (14.1 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 38.2 %); Todd Wuschniig, F (6 ppg, 5.7 rpg).

Others lost: Darrell Teat, F (8.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg).

Starters returning (3): David Emslie, C, 6-11/Jr. (4 ppg, 3.5 rpg); James Holmes, F, 6-8/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg); Brian Jones, G, 6-3/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 4.7 rpg).

Other returnees: Brad Anderson, F, 6-5/So.; Cord Anderson, F, 6-5/So.; Andre Bobbitt, F, 6-6/So.; Stephen Dely, F, 6-10/Sr.; Justin Holbrook, F, 6-7/Jr.; Brian Vaka, G, 6-2/Jr.; Dustin Warford, G, 5-10/Sr.

Top newcomers: Kyle Bailey, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jim Howell, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jason Morrisette, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: Jones made an admirable return from a 1998-99 season lost to a blown right knee, finishing among the league's top seven scorers and top three in assists and

1 PEPPERDINE National Rank: 35

Coach: Jan van Breda Kolff (25-9, 1 year; 152-119 overall, 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 25-9; WCC: 12-2/1st. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA East second round.

Starters lost (3): Tezale Archie, G (9.6 ppg, 6.1 apg, 2.2 spg, 37.4 %); Tommie Prince, F (9.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Nick Sheppard, C (9.1 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 57.9 FG%).

Others lost: Greg Barry, F; Robert Fomby, G.

Starters returning (2): Brandon Armstrong, G, 6-4/Jr. (14.4 ppg; 3.2 rpg, 40 %); Kelvin Gibbs, F, 6-6/Sr. (9 ppg, 7 rpg).

Other returnees: Boomer Brazzle, F, 6-5/So.; David Lalazarian, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg); Craig Lewis, G, 6-3/Jr. (7.5 ppg); Al Minahan, G, 6-1/Sr.; Cedric Suitt, C, 6-10/225.

Top newcomers: Micheal Hall, G, 6-4/Fr.; Terrance Johnson, F/G, 6-5/Fr.; Will Kimble, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Glen McGowan, F, 6-8/Fr.; Micah McKinney, G, 6-3/Fr.; Robert Turner, F/G, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: The Waves bought into new coach Jan van Breda Kolff's multiple-defense, gun-go offense philosophy and won themselves a WCC regular-season title for the first time in eight years last season. It took overtime for Gonzaga to upset them in the conference tournament final, and the Waves washed Indiana out of the NCAA Tournament and tied the school record for wins in a season with 25. They're back this season with the knowledge that van Breda Kolff's stuff works, All-WCC guard Armstrong, power forward Gibbs, five other letter winners and eight newcomers. From those numbers van Breda Kolff has to replace three starters who were significant contributors. Armstrong gets a new backcourt running mate in Derrick Anderson, a transfer from Nevada who redshirted last year.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Malibu, Calif. **Home court:** Firestone Fieldhouse (3,104).

2 GONZAGA National Rank: 43

Coach: Mark Few (26-9, 1 year; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 26-9; WCC: 11-3/2nd. Lost to Purdue in NCAA West semifinal.

Starters lost (4): Axel Dench, C (9.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 54.1 FG%); Richie Frahm, G/F (16.9 ppg, 40.2 %); Mike Nilson, G (3.3 ppg); Matt Santangelo, G (13.2 ppg, 6.4 apg).

Others lost: Ryan Floyd, G (5.8 ppg), Matt Kincaid, G.

Starters returning (1): Casey Calvary, F, 6-8/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 6.4 rpg).

Other returnees: Zach Gourde, F, 6-8/So. (7.7 ppg), Mark Spink, 6-8/Sr. (6.3 ppg); Jimmy Tricco, G, 6-7/So., Kenny Williams, G, 5-9/So.

Top newcomers: Kyle Bankhead, G/F, 6-3/Fr.; Dan Dickau, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/Washington); Alex Hernandez, G/F, 6-4/Jr.; Anthony Reason, G/F, 6-5/Jr.; Jay Sherrell, F, 6-8/Fr.; Blake Stepp, G, 6-4/Fr.; Cory Violette, C/F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: An NCAA Elite Eight team in 1999 ... a Sweet 16 team in 2000 ... goodness, the Bulldogs are really slipping. But aren't they still the envy of every other midmajor program in the country? Santangelo and Frahm, major components of the backcourt engine that drove the Zags' runs to national glory the past two years, are gone. But it would appear that more than suitable replacements are at hand in Dickau and Blake Stepp. Dickau was a blue-chip recruit at Washington and gained two years of Pac-10 experience before transferring and redshirting last year.

Stepp was the Oregon high school player of the year last season and figures to provide Frahm-like shooting. Calvary, Gourde and Spink are potentially the most potent front line in the league. And theoretically, Calvary will be more productive than ever working with a better disher in Dickau.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Spokane, Wash. **Home court:** Martin Center (4,000).

3 SAN DIEGO National Rank: 81

Coach: Brad Holland (94-73, 6 years; 117-104 overall, 8 years).

1999-2000 record: 20-9; WCC: 10-4/3rd.

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Sam Scholl, G.

Starters returning (5): Matt Delzell, F, 6-2/So. (5.9 ppg, 44.4 %); Tyler Field, C, 6-9/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 7.1 rpg); Andre Laws, G, 6-1/Jr. (12.9 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Cameron Rigby, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 6 rpg); Dana White, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg).

Other returnees: Sam Adamo, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.8 ppg); Chris Ferguson, G, 6-1/So.; Nick Greene, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.1 rpg); Kevin Hanson, F/C, 6-10/Jr.; Tom Lippold, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 81.2 FT%).

Top newcomers: Ryan Hegerty, C, 6-10/Fr.

Outlook: Almost everyone returns from a team that won 20 games, played Texas and Oklahoma tough and beat Gonzaga at Gonzaga. A breakout year is possible if back-to-back WCC coach of the year Holland can get the same or better levels of defense, rebounding and all-around chemistry for a third straight season. Laws came into his own at shooting guard last season but has plenty of upside left. He and point guard White give the Toreros as pesky a backcourt pair to deal with as there is in the league. Four other capable guards are also available. San Diego led the league in rebounding and scoring defense, and the key men were Field and Rigby. As in the backcourt, there's plenty of depth up front, too.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: San Diego. **Home court:** Jenny Craig Pavilion (5,100).

4 SAN FRANCISCO National Rank: 96

Coach: Philip Mathews (82-62, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-9; WCC: 7-7/5th.

Starters lost (1): Kenyon Jones, C (16.5 ppg, 9 rpg, 58.5 FG%).

Others lost: Russell Hinder, F; Glen Summerall, G.

Starters returning (4): James Lee, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 46.7 FG%); LyRyan Russell, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.1 apg); Ali Thomas, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 38.5 %); Darrell Tucker, F, 6-9/So. (13.2 ppg, 7 rpg, 40.0 %).

Other returnees: Chris Barideaux, G, 5-10/Sr.; Hondre Brewer, C, 7-0/Jr.; Eugene Brown, 6-6/Jr., John Cox, G, 6-4/So.; Shammell Stallworth, G, 6-5/So. (5.7 ppg).

Top newcomers: Tayo Akinsete, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Andre Brown, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Jason Gaines, G, 6-0/Fr.

Outlook: Tucker was the best freshman to enter the league in many a year and the first to secure a spot on the all-conference team since Greg Anthony did so while playing for Portland in 1986-87. With a year's maturity, Tucker figures to be even rougher on opponents—whether popping from the perimeter or taking his 6-9 frame to the hoop. Tucker won't have WCC player of the year Kenyon Jones to work with (Jones was the only

steals. Point guards of his caliber have been known to carry and/or inspire teams to do big things, and he's capable of that in his senior season. Santa Clara led the WCC in free-throw percentage and was second in assist/turnover ratio last year. Like most Dick Davey-coached teams, the Broncos weren't inclined to beat themselves. But they were midleague in virtually every other category and will have to rise on both ends of the floor to be serious contenders. Replacing the scoring of Fast and Teat won't be easy. But Davey has plenty of candidates.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Santa Clara, Calif. **Home court:** Leavey Center (5,000).

6 PORTLAND National Rank: 226

Coach: Rob Chavez (82-86, 6 years; 110-113 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 10-18. WCC: 4-10/6th.

Starters lost (1): Troy Collins, F (10.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 50.2 FG%).

Others lost: Brian Jackson, F (4.6 ppg); Chuck Neboh, C; Dan Sandrin, F.

Starters returning (4): Travis Andrews, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 4 apg); Tim Frost, C, 6-10/Sr. (8 ppg, 4 rpg); Ryan Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (14.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg,); Bryan Mills, G, 6-7/Sr. (4.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg).

Other returnees: Philip Dejeworek, C, 6-9/Sr. (6.2 ppg); Ross Jorgensen, G, 6-1/Jr.; Diaby Kamara, F, 6-7/Sr.; Kevin Woodberry, G, 6-0/Sr.

Top newcomers: Casey Frandsen, G, 6-3/Fr.; Carmichael Olowoye, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Jorge Rochin, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Ghislain Sema, F, 6-8/Sr. (JC); Matt Towsley, C, 6-11/Fr.

Outlook: The Pilots improved and developed as much as any team during the course of the league season. But while coming on, especially in the second half, the youthful club couldn't figure out how to win on the road. If those freshmen and sophomores learned their lessons and apply them, they'll be much more a team to be reckoned with. Jones went from WCC freshman of the year in '99 to all-conference honorable mention in 2000. To con-

tinue on the path of progress, he needs to add consistency to a game that already has plenty of flair. Chavez added a little of everything to the club but especially to its international flavor with his recruiting. Newcomers hailing from Mexico, Australia and Cameroon join returnees from Germany and France.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Portland, Ore. **Home court:** Chiles Center (5,000).

7 ST. MARY'S National Rank: 252

Coach: Dave Bollwinkel (33-53, 3 years; 90-123 overall, 8 years).

1999-2000 record: 8-20; WCC: 3-11/7th

Starters lost (3): Frank Allocco, G (12.1 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 37.6 %); Seth Dahle, F (6.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg); Josh Greer, F (11.2 ppg, 5.6 rpg).

Others lost: Jesse Bond, C; Jon Gordon, G; Blake Jensen, F; Brad Millard, C (13.5 ppg, 8 rpg); Dan Pangrazio, G.

Starters returning (2): Jovan Harris, G, 6-3/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg); Frankie King, G, 6-1/Sr. (3.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg)

Other returnees: Jonas Balciunas, F, 6-5/Jr.; Ross Benson, F, 6-10/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Tyler Herr, G, 6-5/Sr. (4.7 ppg); Anthony Jones, G, 6-0/Jr.;

Top newcomers: Ervin Anderson, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Chris Baert, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Teohn Conner, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Ethnie Stubbs, F/6-6 (JC); Paul Marigney, G, 6-3/Fr.; Chase Poole, F, 6-8/Fr.; Chris Schlatter, F, 6-6/Fr.; Chris Walls, C, 7-0/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: Big Conting has drifted away. But given the number of games giant center Millard missed because of injury over the past three years, he was rather like Atlantis anyway. Bollwinkel might enjoy having a team not built around a big man with uncertain feet. He seemed to go about the rebuilding task with relish, corralling a seven-member recruiting class, four of them junior college transfers. The emphasis was on speed and athletic ability, and the three most-prized recruits would seem to be Marigney, Anderson and Stubbs. King and Benson are the key returning ingredients in the recipe for an improved record.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Moraga, Calif. **Home court:** McKeon Pavilion (3,500).

8 LOYOLA MARYMOUNT National Rank: 315

Coach: Steve Aggers (first year; 315-269 overall, 20 years).

1999-2000 record: 2-26; WCC: 0-14/8th.

Starters lost (3): Rupert McClendon, F (12.7 ppg, 3.2 rpg); Curtis Slaughter, G (10.2 ppg); Stanley Thorne, G (8.9 ppg).

Others lost: Damon Croshere, G; J.J. Sola, F (6.9 ppg, 4 rpg); Brandon Dalton, G; Mihail Papadopoulos, G; Kevin Richard, F; Jean-Paul Afif, F.

Starters returning (2): Elton Mashack, F, 6-5/Sr.

(11.4 ppg, 7.1 rpg); Pablo Machado, C, 6-10/Sr. (9.7 ppg; 7.3 rpg).

Top newcomers: Philipp Czernin, G/F, 6-6/Jr.

(transfer/Hawaii); Robert Davis, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Sherman Gay, F, 6-7/Fr.; Greg Lakey, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/USC); Eurskine Robinson, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Marcus Smith, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Talk about a long way to go. The Lions didn't defeat a Division I program in a 1999-2000 season that ended with a school-record 15-game losing streak.

Marymount was the first WCC team in 30 years to go 0-for-Division I and the first in 28 years to go 0-14 in the WCC. New coach Aggers retained the top scoring/rebounding duo of Mashack and Machado. But the impetus for what has to be a total turnaround must come from the recruiting class. Davis, who left Marymount before last season, returns to play shooting guard after a year at an Arizona junior college. The point-guard spot appears ticketed for another junior college transfer, Robinson.

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Los Angeles. **Home court:** Gersten Pavilion (4,156).

Schedules

Gonzaga		St. Mary's		San Francisco		Santa Clara	
N17 at E. Washington	D2 at Idaho State	D14 at USC	J1 at UC Riverside	J20 at San Diego	F3 at Santa Clara	F24 at Pepperdine	
N19 UW-Green Bay	D5 Cal State Fullerton	D16 Northwestern	J12 at St. Mary's	J26 Loyola Marymount	F8 Pepperdine		
N25 Idaho	D9 at Sacramento St.	D19 Utah	J13 at San Francisco	J27 Pepperdine	F10 Loyola Marymount		
N29 at Arizona	D16 Portland State	D22 at UNLV	J17 at Gonzaga	J31 at San Francisco	F16 at St. Mary's		
D2 Washington	N18 Long Beach State	D29-30 AZC ntrl.com Tr.	J20 Gonzaga	F3 San Francisco	F17 at San Francisco		
D6 at Montana	D21 at Loyola-Chicago	J12 Santa Clara	J25 Santa Clara	F8 at Gonzaga	F22 Portland		
D9 at Boise State	D30 at UC S'nta Barbara	J13 San Diego	J27 San Diego	F10 at Portland	F24 Gonzaga		
D16 Florida*	J3 at UNLV	J17 at Loyola Mary.	F2 at Loyola Mary.	F16 San Diego			
D19 at UW-Green Bay	J6 San Diego State	J20 Loyola Marymount	F3 at Pepperdine	F17 Santa Clara			
D30 Monmouth College	J12 San Diego	J26 at San Francisco	F8 San Francisco	F19 UC Riverside			
J2 New Mexico	J13 Santa Clara	J27 at St. Mary's	F10 St. Mary's	F23 at Pepperdine			
J12 at San Francisco	J17 Pepperdine	F2 Gonzaga	F15 Pepperdine	F24 at Loy. Marymount			
J13 at St. Mary's	J20 at Pepperdine	F3 Portland	F17 Loyola Marymount				
J17 Portland	J25 at St. Mary's	F8 at San Diego	F22 at San Diego				
J20 at Portland	J27 at San Francisco	F10 at Santa Clara	F24 at San Diego				
J25 San Diego	F2 Portland	F15 at Portland					
J27 Santa Clara	F3 Gonzaga	F17 Gonzaga					
F2 at Pepperdine	F8 at Santa Clara	F23 St. Mary's					
F3 at Loyola Mary.	F10 at San Diego	F24 San Francisco					
F8 St. Mary's	F15 at Gonzaga	*Preseason NIT					
F10 San Francisco	F17 at Portland						
F15 Loyola Marymount	F23 San Francisco						
F22 at Santa Clara	F24 St. Mary's						
F24 at San Diego							
*Sunrise, Fla.							
Loyola Marymount		Portland		San Diego		San Francisco	
N17 Vanguard (Calif.)	N13-24 at Indiana*	N17 Southern Oregon	N17-19 Hisp'nich Schl. Tr.	N18 Kent	N18 Nevada	N18 Nevada	
N21 at UC Irvine	N19 UC Santa Barbara	N22 at Texas A&M-CC	N22 at Sacramento St.	N24-26 United Air's Tr.	N21 at UC Santa Barbara	N21 at UC Santa Barbara	
N25 at USC	N25 Pacific	N24 at Texas-Pan Am	N26 San Jose State	N29 UC Irvine	N24-26 Big Island Invit.	N24-26 Big Island Invit.	
N28 at Colorado	N28 at Oregon	D12 Boise State	D2 at Arizona	D2 Oregon State	D2 Fresno State	D2 Fresno State	
	N28 at Cal St. Fullerton	D12 Boise State	D6 Colorado	D9 at San Diego	D5 at Xavier	D5 at Xavier	
	D3 at Georgia	D5 Washington State	D14 Dominican College	D13 Portland State	D9 Cal Poly SLO	D9 Cal Poly SLO	
	D6 at Long Beach St.	D9 Portland State	D16 at Nevada	D23 at Wis.-Milwaukee	D16 Lewis and Clark	D16 Lewis and Clark	
	D9 San Jose State	D19 Duke	D22 UC Santa Barbara	D28 at Boise State	D19 at Boise State	D19 at Boise State	
		D29-30 H'lidy Stores Cl.	D28 at Loyola-Chicago	D30 at Washington	D30 at St. John's	D30 at St. John's	
			D31 at Southern Illinois	J2 Wis.-Milwaukee	J2 at UW-Green Bay	J2 at UW-Green Bay	
			J3 UC Irvine	J6 at UTEP	J12 Gonzaga	J12 Gonzaga	
			J6 at UC Riverside	J18 at Loyola Mary.	J13 Portland	J13 Portland	
			J12 Portland	J13 at Pepperdine	J18 at Santa Clara	J18 at Santa Clara	
			J13 Gonzaga	J18 San Francisco	J20 at San Diego	J20 at San Diego	
			J18 at Santa Clara	J20 St. Mary's	J26 Pepperdine	J26 Pepperdine	
				J25 at Gonzaga	J27 Loyola Marymount	J27 Loyola Marymount	
				J27 at Portland	J31 St. Mary's	J31 St. Mary's	
				J31 Santa Clara	F3 at St. Mary's	F3 at St. Mary's	
					F8 at Portland	F8 at Portland	
					F10 at Gonzaga	F10 at Gonzaga	
					F16 Santa Clara	F16 Santa Clara	
					F17 San Diego	F17 San Diego	
					F23 at Loyola Marymount	F23 at Loyola Marymount	

Ohio Valley

RANK
15

1 AUSTIN PEAY National Rank: 102

Coach: Dave Loos (139-145, 9 years; 221-198 overall, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 18-10. Ohio Valley: 11-7/T3rd.

Starters lost (1): Mike Head, F (8.4 ppg, 53.8 FG%, 42.6 3%).

Others lost: Curtis Harris, F/C; Eddie Purdue, C; Joey Tuck, G (4.4 ppg, 75 FT%).

Starters returning (3): Trenton Hassell, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 5.2 apg, 47.4 FG%); Joe Williams, C, 6-9/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 62.1 FG%); Nick Stapleton, G, 6-1/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 3.3 apg, 47.4 FG%, 38.8 3%).

Other returnees: Theanthony Haymon, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 53.7 FG%); Matt Jakeway, G, 6-3/So.; Kevin Easley, G, 6-1/Jr.; Brad Loos, G, 6-2/Jr.; Igor Macura, F, 6-7/So.

Top newcomers: Adrian Henning, F, 6-2/Fr.; Gerrell Webster, G, 6-0/Fr.; Rhett Wierzb, G, 6-4/Fr.; Brian Howard, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Morten Szmiedowicz, G/F, 6-5/Sr.

Outlook: No one questions the Governors' talent, but even Loos sounds a bit frustrated after two years of failing to meet expectations. So what's the problem? At times, it's chemistry—there aren't enough basketballs to go around with this bunch—but that could change with mature seniors in the starting lineup, including Hassell, the most talented player in the league and a triple-double threat. Stapleton and Williams can post big numbers. The hope is that Webster can win the point guard job and move Stapleton to off-guard.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Clarksville, Tenn. **Home court:** Dave Aaron Arena (9,000)

2 MURRAY STATE National Rank: 112

Coach: Tevester Anderson (50-15, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-9. Ohio Valley: 14-4/T1st.

Starters lost (3): Rod Murray, F; Aubrey Reese, G (20.4 ppg, 4.8 apg, 1.9 spg); Mike Turner.

Others lost: Aaron Page, G; Marlon Towns, G.

Starters returning (3): Ray Cunningham, F, 6-5/Sr. (6.8 rpg, 51.2 FG%); Isaac Spencer, F, 6-6/Sr. (19.9 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 55.6 FG%).

Other returnees: Justin Burdine, G, 6-1/Jr.; Chris Shumate, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Jamar Avant, F, 6-8/Fr.; Chiwale Bedeau, F, 6-7/Fr.; Andi Hornig, C, 6-11/Fr.; Johnny Mitchell, G, 6-4/Fr.; Kevin Paschel, G, 5-10/Fr.; Mumba Rivera, G, 6-3/Fr.; Roderick Thomas, F, 6-8/Jr.; Cuthbert Victor, G, 6-4/Fr.; Antione Whelchel, F, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: Are the Racers reloading or rebuilding? Anderson hopes for the former, and he had better be right—Murray has won or shared 12 of the last 13 league titles, and Racer fans expect nothing less than a banner. Anderson welcomes a talented recruiting class, but eight of the 12 scholarship players have no D-I experience. But the return of Spencer ensures Murray will stay in the hunt. Cunningham can score, rebound and defend three positions. The Racers will count on Hornig for rebounding and shot blocking. Paschel is the only true point guard on the roster. Anderson hopes youngsters Whelchel, Chris Shumate, Victor and Mitchell can provide scoring punch.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Murray, Ky. **Home court:** Regional Special Events Center (8,600).

3 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI National Rank: 126

Coach: Gary Garner (58-29, 3 years; 306-192 overall, 17 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 24-7. Ohio Valley: 14-4/T1st. Lost to Louisiana State in NCAA West first round.

Starters lost (3): Mike Branson, F (11.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg), 39.9 3%; Brian Bunche, C (4 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Roderick Johnson, F (14.1 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 60.4 FG%).

Others lost: Fred Abraham, G.

Starters returning (2): Michael Stokes, G, 6-0/Sr.

(12.9 ppg, 4.2 apg, 42.7 3%); Antonio Short, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.5 ppg).

Other returnees: Drew DeMond, F, 6-7/So.; Nyah Jones, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 52.2 FG%); Emmanuel McCuthison, G, 6-4/Sr. (5 ppg); Amory Sanders, F, 6-1/Sr. (5.6 ppg); Tim Scheer, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Monte Gordon, F, 6-5/Jr.; Damarcus Hence, G, 6-6/Fr.; Terry Rodgers, C, 6-10/Jr.; Joel Shelton, G, 5-9/Fr.; Daniel Weaver, C, 6-8/So.; Derek Winans, G, 6-2/Fr.; Nyah Jones, C, 6-11/Sr. (JC).

Outlook: Can the Indians repeat with an entirely new front line? Sure. Last season, SEMO shared the conference crown and reached the NCAA Tournament after losing both guards and the league's player of the year. Stokes and Short make up the OVC's best backcourt, especially on the defensive end, and Garner has a flock of solid forwards from which to choose. Jones and Rogers provide two big bodies for the post, with Gordon and Weaver at power forward and perhaps McCuthison on the wing. SEMO may occasionally struggle to score, but it wins a lot of games with its sticky man-to-man defense. Garner may go with a three-guard lineup at times.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Cape Girardeau, Mo. **Home court:** Show Me Center (7,000).

4 EASTERN ILLINOIS National Rank: 169

Coach: Rick Samuels (292-282, 20 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 17-12. Ohio Valley: 11-7/T3rd.

Starters lost (2): Marc Polite, F (13.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 42.9 FG%); John Smith, C (7.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg).

Others lost: Michael Forrest, G; Brendan Rooney, G.

Starters returning (3): Todd Bergmann, F, 6-8/Jr. (4.3 ppg); Matt Britton, G, 6-1/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 3.8 apg, 52.7 FG%, 81.6 FT%); Kyle Hill, G, 6-2/Sr. (19.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 3.6 apg, 2 spg, 47.1 FG%, 37.6 3 FG%).

Other returnees: Henry Domerant, G, 6-4/So. (9.3 ppg, 85.2 FT%); Rod Henry, G, 6-3/Fr.; Chris Herrera, G, 5-9/Fr.; Merve Joseph, F, 6-4/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.3 spg, 53.9 FG%); Craig Lewis, G, 6-1/So.; Luke Sharp, F, 6-8/Jr.; Jan Thompson, C, 6-11/So.

Top newcomers: Andrew Gobczynski, F, 6-7/Fr.; Ryan Kelly, F, 6-7/Fr.; Jesse Mackinson, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; John Thorsen, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Hill is a wonderful player and may be the OVC's best pure scorer, but the key to Eastern's chances may be Joseph, the team's best all-around athlete, who tore an ACL at midseason. With him, the Panthers may have made a run at the league title. If Joseph is at full speed, they could this year—no one likes facing their motion offense and pool of shooters in the postseason. Britton and Domerant will be asked to score more to take the pressure off Hill, primarily because the Panthers won't get much offense from the paint. Bergmann and Thompson will rotate in the middle, and unless Kelly is spelling Joseph, the Panthers will usually field the league's smallest lineup.

Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Charleston, Ill. **Home court:** Lantz Gym (5,300).

By JOEY FOSKO

The Paducah Sun

Predictions

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Austin Peay* | 6. Tennessee-Martin |
| 2. Murray State | 7. Tennessee State |
| 3. Southeast Missouri | 8. Eastern Kentucky |
| 4. Eastern Illinois | 9. Morehead State |
| 5. Tennessee Tech | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-OVC

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kyle Hill, Eastern Illinois	6-2	180	Sr.
G	Michael Stokes, SE Missouri	6-0	180	Sr.
G/F	Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay	6-5	195	Sr.
F	Isaac Spencer, Murray State	6-6	220	Sr.
F	Larrie Smith, Tennessee Tech	6-5	200	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Nick Stapleton, Austin Peay	6-1	165	Sr.
G	Jamie Roberts, Tennessee State	6-3	185	Sr.
F	Merve Joseph, Eastern Illinois	6-4	197	Sr.
C	Joe Williams, Austin Peay	6-9	220	Sr.
F/C	Byron Benton, Tennessee-Martin	6-5	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Trenton Hassell, F, Austin Peay

Newcomer of the Year

Clinton Sims, G, Eastern Kentucky

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Kyle Hill, Eastern Illinois

Best rebounder: Larrie Smith, Tennessee Tech

Best playmaker: Michael Stokes, Southeast Missouri

Best defender: Isaac Spencer, Murray State

Best leaper: Ray Cunningham, Murray State

Most versatile: Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay

Most flamboyant: Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay

Best NBA prospect: Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay

5 TENNESSEE TECH National Rank: 185

Coach: Jeff Lebo (28-27, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 16-12. Ohio Valley: 11-7/T3rd.

Starters lost (2): Josh Heard, G (17.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg); Corey Hemphill, G (13 ppg, 2.7 rpg).

Others lost: Eric Akins, C; Darrell Moore, F.

Starters returning (3): Adonis Hart, C, 6-8/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Larrie Smith, F, 6-5/Sr. (15.6 ppg, 8.5 rpg); Joey Westmoreland, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg).

Other returnees: DeAntoine Beasley, G, 6-6/Jr.; Trey Ferguson, G, 6-5/So.; Leigh Gayden, G, 5-10/So.; Brent Jolly, G, 6-5/So.; Rusty Strange, C, 6-9/So.; Brad Walker, F, 6-5/Jr.

Top newcomers: Cameron Crisp, G, 6-3/Fr.; Damien Perkins, F, 6-7/Jr.; Ahmad Richardson, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: If Tech finds the right combination in the backcourt, the OVC is likely to become a five-team race. The Golden Eagles have the league's best inside-outside game with Smith, a workhorse in the post, and several talented perimeter shooters. Gayden will man the point, with Jolly getting first shot at off-guard slot. Ferguson and Crisp can also stroke the jumper. There's reason to think Tech might still be a year or two away—Smith is the only senior on the roster.

Last league title: 1985.

Last NCAA appearance: 1963.

Site: Cookeville, Tenn. **Home court:** Eblen Center (10,152).

6 TENNESSEE-MARTIN

National Rank: 199

Coach: Bret Campbell (10-19, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 10-19. Ohio Valley: 7-11/7th.

Starters lost (2): Andrae Betts, G (11.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 4.3 apg, dismissed from team); Steve Sensabaugh, G (7.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg).

Others lost: Steve Jordan, F/G.

Starters returning (3): Byron Benton, F/C, 6-5/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Okechi Egbe, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 3.9 rpg); Hayden Prescott, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 6.4 rpg).

Other returnees: Jared Bledsoe, G/F, 6-3/Sr.; Donald Elder, F/C, 6-5/Jr. (4.3 rpg); Jermi Hampton, G, 5-9/Jr.; Jon Roos, G, 6-0/Sr.; Lee Williamson, F, 6-6/Jr.

Top newcomers: Brian Foster, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Robert James, G, 6-3/Fr.; Michael Jackson, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Ned Rolsma, C, 7-0/Jr. (JC); Jeremy Sargent, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: There isn't enough talent here to win the league, but Martin could be someone's spoiler. Benton, out for the first semester for academic reasons, and Prescott get the most out of their 6-5 frames on the inside, and Egbe is a potential star on the wing. It's the backcourt where the Skyhawks will probably come up short—Jackson will probably take over at the point, but there is no comparable replacement for Betts, dismissed from the team last spring for academic reasons. Martin has to improve offensively after shooting 41.1 percent in conference play last season and ranking near the bottom of the league in several categories.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Martin, Tenn. **Home court:** Skyhawk Arena (6,700).

7 TENNESSEE STATE

National Rank: 259

Coach: Nolan Richardson III (1st year).

1999-2000 record: 7-22. Ohio Valley: 6-12/8th.

Starters lost (1): Carl Sykes, G/F.

Starters returning (4): Ralph Martin, C, 6-8/Sr. (6.4 rpg); Jamie Roberts, G, 6-3/Sr. (16.7 ppg); Kevin Samuel, F, 6-3/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 5.3 rpg); Terrick Brown, G, 6-1/Jr.

Other returnees: John Strong, G/F, 6-5 Sr.; Aaron Brochman, C, 6-11.

Top newcomers: Cedric Anderson, C/F, 6-8, Jr. (JC); John Gilmore, F, Sr., 6-8 (JC); Will Hendrix, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Dedrick James, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Garrett Richardson, G, 6-4/Fr.; Darnay Thomas, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Richardson, hired away from his father's staff at Arkansas, takes over an underachieving program that never lacks for talent but usually fails to live up to its billing. Hired late in the spring, Richardson got a late start on the recruiting trail, and it's unclear whether he brought in enough talent to fortify a decent cast of returnees. One challenge for Richardson will be to harness Roberts and Samuel, two explosive players who have never seen a shot they didn't like. Another task is to get the team to focus on defense. Opponents shot 49 percent against the Tigers.

Last league title: 1995.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Howard C. Gentry Complex (10,500).

8 EASTERN KENTUCKY

National Rank: 279

Coach: Travis Ford (1st year; 67-31 overall, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-21. Ohio Valley: 2-16/10th.

Starters lost (3): Sam Hoskin, F (15.7 ppg, 8 rpg, 51.8 FG%); Whitney Robinson, G (11.7 ppg, 3 rpg, 3.7 apg); Ricardo Thomas, F (5 ppg, 5 rpg).

Others lost: Will Morris, G (8.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg); Darcell Williams, F (6.6 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Darick Mattox, F.

Starters returning (2): Chris Garnett, C, 6-10/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 52 FG%); John White, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.1 ppg).

Other returnees: Lavaris Jerry, F, 6-3/Sr. (5.6 ppg); George Selden, F, 6-7/Sr.

Top newcomers: Chris Carsewell, F, 6-7/Jr.; Richard Gaston, F, 6-7/Jr.; Ben Rushing, G, 5-11/Fr.; Clinton Sims, G, 6-3/Jr.

Outlook: The hiring of Ford, a former Kentucky star who has had some success at the NAIA level, means there is more excitement than talent in Richmond. Eventually, his Eastern teams will run the same intense, fullcourt-pressure game Ford played under Rick Pitino, but with only nine scholarship players on hand, it probably won't happen this year. Garnett's physical tools could make him a dominant player in the league for years to come, and Sims—who had

a solid freshman season at Boston College before going to junior college—will be counted on to score a lot. Next year brings a pair of in-state products who began their careers at SEC schools: Shawn Fields (Georgia) and Rick Jones (Vanderbilt).

Last league title: 1979.

Last NCAA appearance: 1979.

Site: Richmond, Ky. **Home court:** McBrayer Arena (6,500).

9 MOREHEAD STATE

National Rank: 294

Coach: Kyle Macy (25-56, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 9-19. Ohio Valley: 4-14/9th.

Starters lost (3): Brad Cleaver, G (16.7 ppg, 43.9 FG%, 87.4 FT%); Jeremy Webb, F (8.9 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2 spg); Kyle Umberger, F (12.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg).

Others lost: Brett Bohanan, G (7.9 ppg, 88.2 FT%); Scott Charity, F (12.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 80.3 FT%).

Starters returning (2): Marquis Sykes, G, 5-11/Sr. (5.4 ppg, 87.2 FT%); Greg Hendricks, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 46.8 3%).

Other returnees: Justin Cornell, G, 6-5/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 38 3%); Bernard Evans, F, 6-5/Sr.; Travis Williams, F, 6-4/Sr.

Top newcomers: Levi Adams, F, 6-9/Fr.; David Aliu, F, 6-7/Fr.; Stephen Butler, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Andy Keating, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Casey Lowe, G, 6-2/Fr.; Ricky Minard, G, 6-3/Fr.; Corey Seegers, F/C, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: Macy, another former Kentucky star, hasn't sparked the Morehead program as was expected three years ago when he was hired. Success has been limited, attendance is anemic and every time the Eagles appear to make some progress, it's undermined by a stream of outgoing transfers. The immediate prospects look bleak with only two seniors and seven freshmen on a 12-man roster, although the young backcourt of Sykes and Cornell shows some promise. Umberger is strong and a solid frontcourt player, but he underscores the Eagles' biggest problem: they simply don't match the quickness and athleticism of their opponents.

Last league title: 1984.

Last NCAA appearance: 1984.

Site: Morehead, Ky. **Home court:** Ellis T. Johnson Arena (6,500).

Schedules

Austin Peay	N29 McKendree	D28 at American	J16 Eastern Kentucky	J25 at Tennessee Tech	F8 at Murray State	F17 at Morehead State	Tennessee Tech
N16-19 Top of World Cl.	D2 at Arkansas State	D30 at Virginia	J18 at Murray State	J27 at Middle Tenn. St.	F10 at UT Martin	F22 at Austin Peay	N17 at South Carolina
N25 IUUPI	D5 Evansville	J4 at Tennessee Tech	J20 at UT Martin	F3 at UT Martin	F14 Morris Brown	F24 Tennessee Tech	N20 at SC State
N27 at Tennessee	D7 Carthage College	J11 Tennessee State	J25 Eastern Illinois	F6 at Austin Peay	F17 Eastern Illinois	Tennessee State	N25 at Chattanooga
D2 at Indiana State	D16 at Loyola	J13 Austin Peay	J27 SE Missouri	F8 SE Missouri State	F22 Eastern Kentucky	N17-18 J. Thompson Cl.	N27 at Loyola of Chicago
D4 Oakland City	D18 at Miami	J16 at Morehead State	F1 Tennessee Tech	F10 Eastern Illinois	F24 Morehead State	N20 Middle Tennessee	D2 at Iowa State
D9 Lee University	J4 at Tennessee State	J18 at UT Martin	F5 at Eastern Kentucky	F15 at Morehead State	UT Martin	N25 Western Kentucky	D9 at SE Missouri
D16 at IUUPI	J6 at Austin Peay	J20 at Murray State	F8 at Austin Peay	F17 at Eastern Kentucky	N20 Bethel	N28 at Kansas State	D17 at Notre Dame
D20 at Colorado State	J11 UT Martin	J27 Eastern Illinois	F10 at Tennessee State	F22 Tennessee Tech	N25 Centenary	D2 Wright State	D20 Asbury College
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl.	J13 Murray State	J29 Southeast Missouri	F15 Murray State	F24 Middle Tenn. St.	N29 at Memphis	D4 Wichita State	J4 Eastern Kentucky
J4 Southeast Missouri	J16 at Tennessee Tech	F3 Tennessee Tech	F17 UT Martin	SE Missouri St.	D4 Webster	D9 at Middle Tenn. St.	J6 Morehead State
J6 Eastern Illinois	J20 Southeast Missouri	F5 Morehead State	F22 at Eastern Illinois	N17 Truman State	D9 at Illinois State	D14 Fisk University	J11 UT-Chattanooga
J11 at Morehead State	J25 at Morehead State	F8 at Tennessee State	F24 at SE Missouri	N20 Missouri-Rolla	D18 at Butler	D16 at Jacksonville St.	J16 Eastern Illinois
J13 at Eastern Kentucky	J27 at Eastern Kentucky	F10 at Austin Peay	Murray State	N24-26 Mtn. Energy Tr.	D21 Alabama A&M	D22 Trevecca (Tenn.)	J18 at Austin Peay
J15 at UT Martin	F1 Tennessee State	F15 UT Martin	N20 Gardner-Webb	N29 at Miss. Valley St.	D29 at Miami (Fla.)	D31 at Evansville	J20 at Tennessee State
J18 Tennessee Tech	F3 Austin Peay	F17 Murray State	N28 Colorado Springs	D5 Southern Illinois	J2 at Centenary	J4 Eastern Illinois	J25 Murray State
J23 at Murray State	F8 at UT Martin	F22 at SE Missouri	D2 at Detroit	D9 Tennessee Tech	J6 at Murray State	J6 Southeast Missouri	J27 UT Martin
J27 Tennessee State	F10 at Murray State	F24 at Eastern Illinois	D8 at UAB	D16 Southwest Missouri	J11 at Eastern Illinois	J11 at East. Kentucky	J30 Covenant College
F1 at SE Missouri	F12 Tennessee Tech	Morehead State	D5 Western Kentucky	D20 Campbell	J13 at SE Missouri St.	J13 at Morehead State	F1 at Morehead State
F3 Eastern Illinois	F17 at SE Missouri	N20 Huntington	D17 at Southern Illinois	D27-28 Sun Carnival Cl.	J15 Austin Peay	J20 Tennessee Tech	F3 at Eastern Kentucky
F6 Murray State	F22 Morehead State	N25 Mt. St. Joseph	D19 South Alabama	J4 at Austin Peay	J18 Eastern Kentucky	J25 at UT Martin	F6 Southeast Missouri
F8 Morehead State	F24 Eastern Kentucky	D6 at VMI	D21 at Louisville	J6 at Tennessee State	J20 Morehead State	J27 at Austin Peay	F8 Reinhardt College
F10 Eastern Kentucky	Eastern Kentucky	D9 Samford	D28 at Colorado	J11 Murray State	J25 Tennessee State	J30 Murray State	F12 at Eastern Illinois
F15 at Tennessee Tech	N16 Urbana	D16 at Ohio State	D30 at Nebraska	J13 UT Martin	J27 at Tennessee Tech	F1 at Eastern Illinois	F15 Austin Peay
F17 at Belmont	N22 at Xavier	D19 St. Francis (Pa.)	J2 at Santa Clara	J20 at Eastern Illinois	J29 St. Mary's	F3 at SE Missouri St.	F17 Tennessee State
F22 UT Martin	N28 Capital	D21 at Dayton	J6 UT Martin	J22 at Morris Brown	F1 at Alabama A&M	F6 UT Martin	F22 at Murray State
F24 at UT Martin	D5 at Kentucky	D29-30 Capital City Cl.	J11 at SE Missouri St.	J27 at Morehead State	F3 Murray State	F8 Eastern Kentucky	F24 at UT Martin
Eastern Illinois	D9 Shawnee State	J2 at Wright State	J13 at Eastern Illinois	J29 at Eastern Kentucky	F6 at Tennessee State	F10 Morehead State	
N18 at Butler	D18 High Point	J6 at Tennessee Tech	J16 at Tennessee State	F1 Austin Peay	F8 Eastern Illinois	F17 Tennessee Tech	
N21 at Nebraska	D20 Cal State Fullerton	J11 Austin Peay	J18 Morehead State	F3 Tennessee State	F10 Southeast Missouri	F20 at Murray State	
N27 Western Illinois	D23 at Loyola of Chicago	J13 Tennessee Tech	J20 Eastern Kentucky	F6 at Tennessee Tech	F15 at Eastern Kentucky	F24 Austin Peay	

Sun Belt

RANK
16

WEST DIVISION

1 SOUTH ALABAMA National Rank: 85

Coach: Bob Weltlich (52-33, 3 years; 271-303 overall, 20 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 20-10. Sun Belt: 13-3/T1st.

Starters lost (1): Dusty Dubbs, G/F (8.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 47.0 FG%, 40.4 3%, 1.6 spg).

Others lost: Josh Hotz, G (4.5 ppg; 46.9 3%); Michael Stewart, F (56.1 FG%); Irv Jenkins, G (48.0 FG%).

Starters returning (4): Virgil Stanesco, C, 6-10/Sr.

(13.4 ppg, 6.9 rpg); Ravonte Dantzler, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 46.4 FG%); Reggie York, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 60 FG%); Demetrice Williams, G, 6-1/So. (9.3 ppg, 79 FT%).

Other returnees: Ericson Beck, G, 5-11/Sr. (1.5 spg); Brett Gravitt, G, 6-3/Sr.; Akbar Stepford, G, 6-3/Sr.; Michael Bollman, C, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Derrick Darkis, G, 6-2/Fr.; Emmett Thomas, G, 6-5/Fr.; Benjamin Sormonte, G, 6-3/Fr.; Henry Williams, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: Nine players and most of the best athletes return from last season's league co-champion, including a much-improved Stanesco, who led the team in scoring in five of its last nine games.

Dantzler was at his best in big games and helped lead USA to eight straight wins before a loss to Lafayette in the conference tournament final.

Demetrice Williams must become effective at the point, but a now-eligible Henry Williams should help Weltlich's traditionally patient Jags quicken the tempo and become more physical.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Mobile, Ala. **Home court:** Mitchell Center (10,000).

2 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE National Rank: 92

Coach: Jessie Evans (56-38, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 25-9. Sun Belt: 13-3/T1st. Lost to Tennessee in NCAA South first round.

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Kendall Regis, C; David Patrick, G (80. FT%); Derrick Warren, F.

Starters returning (5): Blane Harmon, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.5 ppg); Lonnie Thomas, F, 6-8/Sr. (11.4 ppg; 7.2 rpg; 57 FG%); Reggie DeGray, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.5 ppg; 4.7 rpg; 47.1 FG%); Billy Jones, G, 6-4/Sr. (6 ppg); Brett Smith, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (4.1 ppg; 5.6 rpg).

Other returnees: Orlando Butler, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.1 ppg); Shea Whitling, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.5 ppg); Robert Jupiter, G, 6-3/Jr.; Kenneth Lawrence, G, 6-0/So.; Jarret Evans, G, 6-3/Sr.; Darryl Robins, F, 6-6/So.; Demetrius Williams, F, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: Brad Boyd, F, 6-5/Fr.; Antoine Landry, G, 5-11/Fr.; Laurie Bridges, G, 6-5/Fr.; Anthony Johnson, G, 6-6/So.

Outlook: The Ragin' Cajuns, who shared the league crown and won the conference tournament last season, return all five starters and 12 of 14 lettermen. So why the No. 2 pick? Two losses to South Alabama in league play and a 43 percent shooting mark last season are concerns. But Evans' Cajuns

do everything else well: Opponents shot 40 percent last year, and Lafayette outrebounded 23 of its final 30 foes. Butler was the offensive spark last year, leading the team in scoring and receiving all-league honors despite never starting a game. He and Harmon form a potent backcourt. DeGray and Smith are consistent inside forces.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Lafayette, La. **Home court:** Cajundome (12,800).

3 NEW MEXICO STATE National Rank: 94

Coach: Lou Henson (236-103, 12 years; 726-363 overall, 37 years; 19-20 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 22-10. Big West: 11-5/2nd, East Division.

Starters lost (2): Billy Keys, G (17.3 ppg; 4.6 rpg); Aaron Brodt, F/C (7.1 ppg; 6.1 rpg).

Others lost: Brad Bestor, G (7.1 ppg).

Starters returning (3): Eric Channing, G, 6-4/Jr. (15.6 ppg; 44.9 3%); Daveeno Hines, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.9 ppg; 7.7 rpg; 52.7 FG%); Zack Norvell, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.1 ppg).

Other returnees: Mikko Noopila, F, 6-8/Sr.; Brandon Mason, G, 6-4/So.; Dennis Desmond, G, 5-11/So.; Ryan McDermott, F, 6-9/Jr.

Top newcomers: Emanuel Dildy, G, 6-1/Fr.; James Felder, F/C, 6-8/So. (JC); James Moore, F, 6-8/Fr.; Dennis Trammel, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: If the Aggies are looking for Southern hospitality in their new conference, they are looking in the wrong place. The rest of the league knows that Henson's squad was 11-5 in the Big West last year, reached the league tournament final and went to the NIT. They also know about Channing and his long-range shooting ability. But other than Hines and Norvell, the rest of the roster is mostly untested. Noopila must step up and play a more important role, and the Aggies must find a point guard after the departed Keys played 1,000 minutes at the slot last year and ranked among the Big West leaders in assists.

Last league title: 1999 (Big West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Las Cruces, N.M. **Home court:** Pan American Center (13,071).

4 NEW ORLEANS National Rank: 174

Coach: Joey Stiebing (40-46, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-18. Sun Belt: 6-10/7th.

Starters lost (3): David Morin, C; Desmond Baxter, G (10.5 ppg, 40.2 3%, 90.7 FT%, 3.3 apg); Nathaniel Bailey, G (9.2 ppg, 2.9 apg, 1.6 spg).

Others lost: Andre Blackmon, G; Jesse Henry, G; Carlos Hines, F (6.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg).

Starters returning (2): Clyde Ellis, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Tory Walker, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 42.6 3%, 79.3 FT%, 1.4 bpg, 1.3 spg).

Other returnees: Ben Adams, G, 6-1/187, Sr. (1.2 spg); Rickie Marlowe, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 81.3 FT%); Corey Sanders, C, 6-11/Jr.; Brett Meliet, G, 6-0/Jr.; Kyle Smith, G, 6-2/So. (transfer/Kansas State); Curtis Wilson, F, 6-8/Sr. (RS/foot).

Top newcomers: John Ashaolu, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ben Wilson, G, 6-3/Fr.; Shelton Little, F/G, 6-4/Fr.; Kyle Buggs, G, 6-3/Fr.; A.J. Meredith, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: The Privateers have their top scorers from each of the last two seasons back, which is good since they will need all the points they can muster after averaging a school-record-low 59.9 points last year. Walker led the Privateers in scoring, rebounding and three-point shots last year, but the return of Curtis Wilson, the scoring leader in 1998-99, from a broken foot and a year of experience for Ellis and Sanders should lighten his load. The perimeter may be the key to the Privateers avoiding a third straight losing season.

Last league title: 1993.

By DAN McDONALD

Lafayette (La.) Daily Advertiser

Predictions

East Division

1. Louisiana Tech
2. Western Kentucky
3. Florida International
4. Middle Tennessee
5. Arkansas State
6. Arkansas-Little Rock

West Division

1. South Alabama*
2. Louisiana-Lafayette
3. New Mexico State
4. New Orleans
5. North Texas
6. Denver

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Sun Belt

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Gerrod Henderson, La. Tech	6-4	208	Sr.
G	Chris Davis, North Texas	6-6	225	So.
F	Lonnie Thomas, La.-Lafayette	6-8	225	So.
C	Virgil Stanesco, So. Alabama	6-10	267	Sr.
C	Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky	7-1	285	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Carlos Arroyo, Fla. International	6-2	190	Sr.
G	Orlando Butler, La.-Lafayette	6-2	190	Sr.
G	Eric Channing, New Mexico State	6-4	190	Jr.
F	Tory Walker, New Orleans	6-8	188	Sr.
F	Antonio Meeking, Louisiana Tech	6-8	245	So.

Player of the Year

Gerrod Henderson, G, Louisiana Tech

Newcomer of the Year

Anthony Johnson, G, Louisiana-Lafayette

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Alan Barksdale, Arkansas-Little Rock
Best rebounder: Lonnie Thomas, Louisiana-Lafayette
Best playmaker: Carlos Arroyo, Florida International
Best defender: Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky
Best leaper: Stan Blackmon, Arkansas-Little Rock
Most versatile: Wahhab Carter, Denver
Most flamboyant: Carlos Arroyo, Florida International
Best NBA prospect: Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: New Orleans. **Home court:** Lakefront Arena (10,000).

5 NORTH TEXAS National Rank: 217

Coach: Vic Trilli (16-63, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 7-20. Big West: 5-11/6th, East Division.

Starters lost (3): Deginald Erskin, F, 6-6/So. (18.9 ppg; 5.2 rpg); Brandon Gilbert, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.4 ppg; 6.3 rpg; 46.1 FG%; 44.4 3%); Calvin Williams, G, 6-0/Jr.

Others lost: Sam Funches, F (4.4 ppg; 52.3 FG%).

Starters returning (2): Chris Davis, G, 6-6/So. (21.7 ppg, 5.1 rpg); Jason Miller, F, 6-9/So. (6.2 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 51.2 FG%).

Other returnees: Kenneth Mangrum, G, 6-4/Jr. (4 ppg); Unjel Masters, F, 6-9/So.; Bryan Lucas, F, 6-7/Sr.; Wes Allen, G, 6-3/So.; Tyler Helwig, G, 6-4/So.

Top newcomers: Josh Richardson, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Marcellus Wright, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Terence White, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: There's a new conference and a lot of new faces for the Mean Green, but fortunately for Trilli there also are two top returnees. Davis, who ranked

in the top 15 in the nation in scoring, and Miller give the Eagles one of the country's best young tandems, but that won't be enough for the squad to compete in its new surroundings. Defensive specialist Mangrum must step forward, and Allen must bounce back from an ankle injury that sidelined him all of last season. Three incoming transfers will also have to play a major role.

Last league title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Denton, Texas. **Home court:** Super Pit (10,000).

6 DENVER

National Rank: 249

Coach: Marty Fletcher (23-59, 3 years; 236-280 overall, 15 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-22. Sun Belt: 3-13/8th.

Starters lost (1): Ty Church, G (5.5 ppg).

Others lost: Brandt Wilcox, C.

Starters returning (4): Arthur Ireland, G, 6-3/Sr. (12 ppg; 4.9 rpg); Wahhab Carter, F, 6-6/Jr. (12.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg); B.J. Pratt, G, 6-2/So. (12.6 ppg, 80.5 FT%); Steve Simmons, C, 6-9/Jr. (6.1 rpg).

Other returnees: Kevin Overton, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg); Matt Paul, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 39.5 3%); Phillip Heath, G, 5-11/Jr.; Tyrone Turner, G, 5-10/Jr.

Top newcomers: Sherman Rochell, F, 6-5/Jr.; Ryan Goral, G, 6-0/Fr.; Brett Starkey, F, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: It is a long way from the Denver campus to the "sun belt," and it showed last season in the road performance: The Pioneers won only once in 13 away games, at nearby Air Force. Fletcher is hoping his young club grew under the adversity. One player who has stepped up is the athletic Carter, nephew of 1993 World Series MVP Joe Carter, who was second in the league in scoring. If he continues his improvement, if the Pioneers get more consistent shooting from Ireland and Pratt, and if a couple of newcomers step up, Denver could be more of a threat in its second Belt season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Denver. **Home court:** Magness Arena (7,200).

EAST DIVISION

1 LOUISIANA TECH

National Rank: 134

Coach: Keith Richard (40-17, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 21-8. Sun Belt: 12-4/3rd.

Starters lost (3): Craig Jackson, G (13.9 ppg, 4 rpg, 1.3 spg); Curtis Williams, C (8 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 58.2 FG%); Derek Smith, G (7 ppg, 48.5 FG%, 1.3 spg).

Others lost: Kendrick Spruel, F (9 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 41.5 FG%); Omar Cooper, G, Mike Powelczak, F.

Starters returning (2): Gerrod Henderson, G, 6-4/Sr. (18.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 39.6 FG%, 81.5 FT%); Antonio Meeking, F, 6-8/So. (11.2 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 66.7 3%).

Other returnees: Marco Cole, G, 6-5/Jr.; Travis Lewis, G, 6-0/Sr.; Jon Fowler, C, 6-10/Sr.; Nick Stamps, G, 6-1/Jr.

Top newcomers: Daryl Ford, G, 6-3/Fr.; Zach Johnson, F, 6-10/So. (Prop 48).

Outlook: Louisiana Tech returns two stars in Henderson, last season's league player of the year, and Meeking, the freshman of the year, but precious little else. The biggest question for the Bulldogs is whether Lewis or Stamps can fill the point guard slot. If either can, Henderson can return to off-guard full time. Prospects are better inside, where Meeking last season had more rebounds than any Bulldog freshman since Karl Malone. He'll get help from Johnson.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Ruston, La.

Home court: Thomas Assembly Center (8,000).

2 WESTERN KENTUCKY

National Rank: 140

Coach: Dennis Felton (24-34, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-18. Sun Belt: 8-5/5th.

Starters lost (1): Lee Lampley, F (14.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg).

Others lost: Jimmy Boykin, F.

Starters returning (4): David Boyden, F, 6-8/So.

(5.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 54.6 FG%); Chris Marcus, C, 7-1/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 59.6 FG%, 2.6 bpg);

Nashon McPherson, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.3 ppg); Derek Robinson, G, 6-1/Jr. (9.4 ppg, 81.1 FT%, 4.5 apg).

Other returnees: Filip Videnov, G, 6-4/So. (6.3 ppg, 92.3 FT%); Tremain Rowles, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 41.5 3%); Brian Allenspach, C, 6-11/Jr.; Todor Pandov, F, 6-9/So.; Nate Williams, F, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: Golden Ingle, G, 5-10/Fr.; Raynardo Curry, G, 6-0/So.; Mike Wells, 6-3/So.

Outlook: Marcus emerged as the league's dominant inside force in his first season, topping the Sun Belt in both rebounding and blocked shots and receiving league newcomer and defensive player of the year honors. The Hilltoppers are no one-man show, though: The team returns 78 percent of its scoring and 86 percent of its rebounding, and it will have the advantage of a summer European tour that provided even more seasoning. McPherson, the squad's only senior, provides a strong inside-outside threat.

Last league title: 1995.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Bowling Green, Ky. **Home court:** E.A. Diddle Arena (11,300).

3 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

National Rank: 178

Coach: Donnie Marsh (1st year; 76-54 overall, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 16-14. Sun Belt: 9-7/4th.

Starters lost (2): Marshod Fairweather, G (15.1 ppg, 76.2 FT%); Darius Cook, C (9.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 49.7 FG%).

Others lost: Lucas Barnes, F (17.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 55.7 FG%); Michael Tucker, F (77.4 FT%, 1.5 spg); Nate Aaron, G.

Starters returning (3): Carlos Arroyo, G, 6-2/Sr. (17.7 ppg, 5.2 apg, 1.7 spg, 45.5 FG%, 42.9 3%); Jabahri Brown, F, 6-10/So. (8.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 2.3 bpg, 1.6 spg); Karel Rosario, F, 6-9/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 5.2 rpg).

Other returnees: Sylbrin Robinson, F, 6-7/So. (5.5 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 1.3 spg); Ben Schiffer, G, 6-5/Sr.; Fab Fisher, G, 5-9/So.

Top newcomers: John Boney, F, 6-6/Fr.; William Copeland, G, 5-10/So.; Derrek Davenport, F/C, 6-9/Jr.; Slavcho Slachov, G, 6-4/Fr.; Todd Smith, G, 6-4/Jr.

Outlook: With Shakey Rodriguez having stepped down as coach in the offseason amid allegations of irregularities in the program, Marsh will try to provide stability for an underachieving team. He has a great building block in Arroyo, who is the league's most exciting frontcourt player and holds the school assists record. He can play either guard spot. Arroyo will have to score, though—no other backcourt returnee ranked among the team's top eight scorers last year. The front line is more solid, with Rosario having improved his scoring and rebounding figures three straight seasons, and Brown setting a school record last year with 58 blocks.

Last league title: 1995 (TAAC East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Miami. **Home court:** Golden Panther Arena (5,000).

4 MIDDLE TENNESSEE ST.

National Rank: 228

Coach: Randy Wiel (65-53, 4 years; 97-103 overall, 7 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-13. Ohio Valley: 10-8/6th.

Starters lost (1): Cedrick Wallace, F (12.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg).

Others lost: Johnny Cobb, C; Kenyata Chisholm, G; Ron McKnight, G (9.7 ppg; 4 rpg; 39.3%).

Starters returning (4): Jonathan Whitworth, G, 5-11/Sr. (7 ppg, 51.7% FG%, 50.5 3%, 78.8 FT%); Fernando Ortiz, G, 6-5/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 78.8 FT%); Lee Nosse, C, 6-10/Sr. (10 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 45.3 FG%, 89.2 FT%); Dale Thomas, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 51.1 FG%).

Other returnees: Kevin White, G, 6-2/Sr. (76.9 FT%);

Iiro Tenngren, F, 6-8/Jr. (11 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 49.2 FG%); Jani Hiltunen, F, 6-7/So.

Top newcomers: Tommy Gunn, G/F, 6-3/Fr.; Steven Jackson, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: The Blue Raiders picked a good year to join the expanded Sun Belt, as they return four starters and three double-figure scorers. Whitworth led the nation in 3-point percentage and is adequate at the point. Nosse showed off his offense skills with a 32-point performance against Tennessee Tech in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, but he and the rest of the squad must rebound better than last year, when no Raider averaged more than 4.5 boards.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Home court: Murphy Center (11,520).

5 ARKANSAS STATE

National Rank: 253

Coach: Dickey Nutt

1999-2000 record: 10-17. Sun Belt: 7-9/6th.

Starters lost (4): Chico Fletcher, G (12.4 ppg, 8.3 apg); DeShawn Denson, G (8.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg); C.J. Pepper, F (14.6 ppg, 6.8 rpg); Geoff Williams, C (6.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 61.2 FG%).

Starters returning (1): Odie Williams, G, 6-3/So. (8.4 ppg, 2.0 apg, 36.1 3%);

Other returnees: Jamie Rosser, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 2.1 rpg); Kolin Weaver, F, 6-9/Jr. (6.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg).

Top newcomers: Jason Meads, F/C, 6-10/255, Jr. (JC); Kim Adams, F, 6-7/Fr.; Claude Davis, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Justin Smith, G, 6-3/Fr.; Nick Rivers, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Jason Jennings, C, 7-0/Jr. (transfer/Arkansas); Matt Pruitt, G, 6-3/So. (transfer/Mississippi); DeWayne Hart, G/F, 6-5/So. (RS/knee).

Outlook: With Fletcher, one of the NCAA's top 15 career assist leaders, and three other starters gone, Nutt will need a big effort from Williams, who will shift back to his natural point slot. Rosser, who emerged as a shooter last season, is also back. The much-improved Weaver will move into full-time action while shifting to a wing slot to give the Indians a bigger lineup than in years past. Arkansas transfer Jennings, a former Mr. Basketball of Arkansas, joins with hometown product Pruitt and Hart, who has undergone two knee surgeries, to give the Indians three potential headliners.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Jonesboro, Ark.

Home court: Convention Center (10,563).

6 ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK

National Rank: 300

Coach: Porter Moser (1st year).

1999-2000 record: 4-24. Sun Belt: 1-15/9th.

Starters lost (1): Adrian Brown, G.

Others lost: Michael Lovitt, G.

Starters returning (4): Alan Barksdale, G, 6-4/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 83.3 FT%); Stan Blackmon, F, 6-6/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 41.7 3%); Laverne Smith, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 6.8 FG%, 78.8 FT%); Troy Moore, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.5 ppg; 5.8 rpg; 54.4 FG%).

Other returnees: Michael Neal, F, 6-8/Sr.; Alex Finger, G, 6-0/So.; Mark Green, G, 6-2/So.; Roland Bryant, F, 6-7/Jr.

Top newcomers: Jake Yancy, F, 6-9/Fr.; Darius Eason, F, 6-9/Fr.; Bryan Crislip, G, 6-2/Fr.; Richard Hardman, F, 6-6/Fr.; Nick Zackery, G, 6-3/Fr.; Damion Ninkovic, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Fortunately for Moser, UALR's third coach in three years and the school's top recruiter the past two, the Trojans roster is much more stable than the head coaching spot. It is anchored by Blackmon, who is one of the most athletic players in the league, Smith and Barksdale, but that trio will need help. Ninkovic, Yancy and Eason must come through if the Trojans plan to escape the league cellar.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Little Rock, Ark.

Home court: ALLTEL Arena (18,000).

Schedules

Ark.-Little Rock N11 Ark.-Monticello N18 at Northwestern N21 Central Arkansas N25 Southwestern N28 at Morris Brown D2 at Baylor D5 Alcorn State D9 at Marquette D12 at Ark.-Pine Bluff D16 Morris Brown D19 at Oklahoma State D28 Middle Tennessee D30 Missouri-K.C. J4 at New Mexico St. J7 Louisiana Tech J11 at Denver J13 at Western Ky. J18 Arkansas State J20 at Middle Tennessee J24 Florida International J27 at Louisiana Tech F1 at North Texas F7 New Orleans F10 Louisiana-Lafayette F14 South Alabama F17 Western Kentucky F21 at Arkansas Int'l F24 at Arkansas State Arkansas State N20 Southwest College N25 Jackson State J29 at Nevada D2 Eastern Illinois D4 Texas-Pan American D14 at Memphis D16 at So. Mississippi D18 Morris Brown D21 at McNeese State D23 at Texas-Pan Amer. D28 Florida International D30 at Louisiana Tech	J4 at Middle Tenn. St. J6 South Alabama J13 Louisiana Tech J18 at Ark.-Little Rock J20 at Florida Int. J25 at W. Kentucky J31 New Orleans F3 at La.-Lafayette F8 Denver F10 Middle Tenn. St. F15 at New Mexico St. F17 at North Texas F22 Western Kentucky F24 Ark.-Little Rock Denver N21 Oregon N24 at Air Force N27 at Wyoming N30 Navy D3 Brown D7 at Ohio State D13 Oregon State D18 at Colorado State D22 Air Force D28 Colorado Academy D31 Western Kentucky J4 Louisiana Tech J11 Arkansas State J13 at North Texas J18 at Middle Tenn. St. J20 New Orleans J25 La.-Lafayette J27 New Mexico State F1 at South Alabama F4 Colorado College F8 at Arkansas St. F10 North Texas F15 at La.-Lafayette F17 at Florida Int. F22 South Alabama F24 at New Mexico St.	Florida International N17-18 FIU Tip-Off Cl. N21 Palm Beach Atlantic N24-25 FIU Shootout D2 at Providence D7 at St. Bonaventure D7 at Brigham Young D16 Washington D22 at Purdue D28 Arkansas State D30 North Texas J4 South Alabama J7 Pennsylvania J11 at Middle Tenn. St. J13 La.-Lafayette J20 Arkansas State J25 at Ark.-Little Rock J27 Western Kentucky F1 Louisiana Tech F3 Middle Tenn. St. F8 at New Mexico St. F10 New Orleans F15 at W. Kentucky F17 Denver F22 Ark.-Little Rock F25 at Louisiana Tech Louisiana-Lafayette N18 Louisiana College N21 McNeese State N25 Texas Tech D19-20 Trend Home Cl. D23 at South Alabama D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl. J3 New Orleans J6 at W. Kentucky J11 New Mexico State J13 Florida International J15 Texas-Pan American J20 North Texas J25 at Denver J27 South Alabama F1 at New Mexico St.	F3 Arkansas State F8 at Louisiana Tech F10 at Ark.-Little Rock F12 at Texas-Pan Amer. F15 Denver F17 Middle Tennessee F22 at North Texas F24 at New Orleans Louisiana Tech N17-18 J. Thompson Cl. N21 Ouachita Baptist N25 McNeese State N27 Nicholls State D2 Bradley D5 Mississippi State D9 Jackson State D12 Minnesota D16 Centenary D21 Texas Southern D30 Arkansas State J4 Denver J6 Ark.-Little Rock J11 North Texas J13 Arkansas State J18 Western Kentucky J20 Centenary J25 Middle Tennessee J27 Ark.-Little Rock F1 Florida International F3 South Alabama F8 La.-Lafayette F10 W. Kentucky F15 Middle Tennessee F17 New Mexico State F21 New Orleans F25 Florida International Middle Tennessee N20 at Tennessee State N22 at Belmont N27 at Kansas D2 at IUPUI D4 at Rice	D9 Tennessee State D12 Central Florida D15 Tennessee D18 Campbell D21 Radford D28 at Ark.-Little Rock J4 Arkansas State J6 North Texas J11 Florida International J13 at South Alabama J18 Denver J20 Ark.-Little Rock J25 at Louisiana Tech J27 at New Orleans F1 Western Kentucky F3 at Florida Int. F10 at Arkansas State F15 Louisiana Tech F17 at La.-Lafayette F22 New Mexico State F24 at W. Kentucky New Orleans N18 Southwest Missouri N21 Norfolk State N25 Lipscomb N28 Southern (La.) D1 Loyola (La.) D9 Southern Miss. D12 Nicholls State D16 at LSU D21 Tulane D23 at Sam Houston St. D28 Western Kentucky D30 at Pittsburgh J3 at La.-Lafayette J6 Denver J13 at New Mexico St. J18 at North Texas J20 at Denver J25 South Alabama J27 Middle Tennessee J31 at Arkansas State	F4 New Mexico State F8 at Ark.-Little Rock F10 at Florida Int. F14 North Texas F17 at South Alabama F21 Louisiana Tech F24 La.-Lafayette New Mexico State N17-19 Hisp'c Schol. Tr. N21 at San Diego State N25 at Washington N27 Ark.-Pine Bluff N29 SMU D2 Texas-El Paso D6 New Mexico D9 W. New Mexico D20 at New Mexico D23 at Texas-El Paso D28 North Texas J2 at Texas Tech J4 Ark.-Little Rock J11 at La.-Lafayette J13 New Orleans J18 at South Alabama J21 Western Kentucky J24 at North Texas J27 at Denver F1 La.-Lafayette F4 at New Orleans F7 Florida International F10 South Alabama F15 Arkansas State F17 at Louisiana Tech F22 at Middle Tennessee F24 Denver North Texas N17 at Tulsa N20 at Texas A&M N28 Oklahoma State D1-2 Pizza Hut Classic D5 at Arkansas D9 at Oklahoma	D16 Alabama* D19 Texas A&M-Kingville D23 Baylor D28 at New Mexico St. D30 Florida International J3 Hardin-Simmons J6 at Middle Tenn. St. J11 at Louisiana Tech J13 Denver J18 New Orleans J20 at La.-Lafayette J24 New Mexico State J31 Ark.-Little Rock F3 at W. Kentucky F8 South Alabama F10 at Denver F14 at New Orleans F17 Arkansas State F22 La.-Lafayette F24 at South Alabama *Mobile, Ala. South Alabama N14-24 Marquette* N21 Stephen F. Austin F25 Sam Houston State N28 at Southern Miss. D1 at Auburn D4 Wright State D9 Alabama State D12 West Florida D16 Louisville** D19 at Murray State D23 La.-Lafayette D30 at Brigham Young J4 at Florida Int. J6 at Arkansas State J10 Western Kentucky J13 Middle Tennessee J18 New Mexico State J20 Birm. Southern	J25 at New Orleans J27 at La.-Lafayette F1 Denver F3 Louisiana Tech F8 at North Texas F10 at New Mexico St. F14 at Ark.-Little Rock F17 New Orleans F22 at Denver F24 North Texas *Preseason NIT **Mobile, Ala. Western Kentucky N18 at Evansville N21 Union College (KY) N25 Tennessee State N28 Vanderbilt D2 at New Mexico D5 at Murray State D9 at Louisville D16 Akron D18 Savannah State D21 St. Joseph's (Pa.) D28 at New Orleans D31 at Denver J3 Asbury College J6 Louisiana-Lafayette J10 at South Alabama J13 Ark.-Little Rock J18 Louisiana Tech J21 New Mexico State J25 Arkansas State J27 at Fla. International F1 at Middle Tennessee F3 North Texas F10 at Louisiana Tech F15 Florida International F17 at Ark.-Little Rock F22 at Arkansas State F24 Middle Tennessee
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Big West

RANK
17

1 UTAH STATE National Rank: 34

Coach: Stew Morrill (43-19, 2 years; 261-157, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1999-2000 record: 28-6. Big West Eastern Division: 16-0/1st. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA South first round.
Starters lost (1): Troy Rolle, G (12 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 80.4 FT%; 39.4 3%).
Others lost: Andre Mahorn, F; Rashaun Thomas, G; Brad Willden, F.
Starters returning (4): Tony Brown, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 45.9 FG%, 87.9 FT%, 43.8 3%); Shawn Daniels, F, 6-6/Sr. (12 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 58.1 FG%, 1.7 bpg, 1.4 spg); Dimitri Jorssen, C, 6-11/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 1.4 bpg); Bernard Rock, G, 5-10/Sr. (10 ppg, 46.5 FG%, 4.4 apg, 1.5 spg).
Other returnees: Dion Bailey, F, 6-3/Sr.; Curtis Bobb, F, 6-6/Sr.; Brennan Ray, F, 6-5/Jr.
Top newcomers: Calvin Brown, G, 5-10/Fr.; Nate Bullen, G, 6-2/Fr.; Mike Stowell, G, 6-3/Fr.; Thomas Vincent, G, 5-10/Fr.
Outlook: The Aggies ran the table in the Big West last season, going 16-0. Overall, they won 19 straight during one stretch, and they won the most games by a Big West team since UNLV's Final Four team in 1990-91 won 34. And they lose just one player for this season. Small wonder why the runner-up spot in the Big West is what everyone else will be shooting for. The player the Aggies lost, Rolle, co-

MVP in the Big West tournament, will certainly be missed. But the team-oriented Aggies—not one of them showed up in the top 15 scorers in the conference last season—have plenty left, starting with Daniels, who led the team in scoring and rebounding; Rock and Jorssen. The newcomers will be looked upon simply for size and quickness off the bench.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Logan, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Glen Smith Spectrum (10,270).

2 LONG BEACH STATE National Rank: 73

Coach: Wayne Morgan (60-54, 4 years).
1999-2000 record: 24-6. Big West Western Division: 15-1/1st. Lost to California in NIT first round.
Starters lost (2): Antrone Lee, F (10 ppg, 5 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 1.4 bpg, 1.4 spg); Mate Milisa, C (18.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 59.3 FG%, 82.9 FT%, 44.7 3%).
Others lost: D'Cean Bryant, F (8 ppg, 46.4 FG%, 40.6 3%); Charles O'Neal, G (8.1 ppg, 45.2 FG%).
Starters returning (3): Ramel Lloyd, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 45.6 FG%); Ron Johnson, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.4 ppg); James Williams, F, 6-9/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 55.9 FG%, 1.7 spg, 1.1 bpg).
Other returnees: Keith Felton, G, 5-10/Sr.; Brad Smith, G, 6-2/Sr.; Grant Stone, F, 6-8/Sr.

By GORDON VERRELL

Long Beach Press-Telegram

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Utah State* | 6. Cal Poly |
| 2. Long Beach State* | 7. Pacific |
| 3. UC Irvine | 8. Idaho |
| 4. UC Santa Barbara | 9. Cal State Fullerton |
| 5. Boise State | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Big West

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Shawn Daniels, Utah State	6-6	250	Sr.
F	Ike Harmon, Cal St. Fullerton	6-7	190	Sr.
C	Chris Bjorklund, Cal Poly	6-9	235	Sr.
G/F	Ramel Lloyd, Long Beach State	6-4	225	Sr.
G	Bernard Rock, Utah State	5-10	165	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Abe Jackson, Boise State	6-7	215	Jr.
F	James Williams, Long Beach St.	6-9	225	Sr.
C	Dimitri Jorssen, Utah State	6-11	245	Sr.
G	Jerry Green, UC-Irvine	6-5	240	Jr.
G	Travis Reed, Long Beach State	6-8	240	Jr.

Player of the Year

Shawn Daniels, F, Utah State

Newcomer of the Year

Jamaal Scott, G, Cal Poly

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Tony Brown, Utah State.
Best rebounder: Shawn Daniels, Utah State.
Best playmaker: Bernard Rock, Utah State.
Best defender: James Williams, Long Beach State.
Most versatile: Lemi Williams, Long Beach State.
Most flamboyant: Ramel Lloyd, Long Beach State.
Best NBA prospect: Chris Bjorklund, Cal Poly.

Top newcomers: Kevin Roberts, F, 6-6/Fr.; Terrance Watkins, F, 6-3/Fr.; Travis Reed, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS); Lemi Williams, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Michael Darrett, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Vance Lawhorn, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The 49ers will be hard-pressed to duplicate their 24-6 record of last season. One reason: Stanford and Utah are on their non-conference schedule, not Albany and Cal State Monterey Bay, two schools the 49ers trounced by 38 and 70 points, respectively. Another reason: Gone is Milisa, the Big West Player of the Year. Still, last year's turnaround season—coach Wayne Morgan's first winning season in his four years at Long Beach State—raised hopes for the future. Returning is Lloyd, who averaged 18 points two years ago, his first after transferring from Syracuse, but only 14.8 last season when he took something of a back seat to Milisa. James Williams, the 49ers' leading rebounder, is also back. Reed, who redshirted last season after transferring from UCLA, is a key addition. Two newcomers to watch are Roberts, who averaged 18.5 points at Casa Grande High in Petaluma, Calif., and transfer Lemi Williams, who averaged 18 points in junior college.

Last league title: 1995.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Long Beach, Calif. **Home court:** The Pyramid (5,000).

3 UC IRVINE National Rank: 131

Coach: Pat Douglass (29-52, 3 years; 405-170 overall, 19 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-14. Big West Western Division: 7-9/3rd.

Starters lost (2): Greg Ethington, C; Marek Ondera, F (12.1 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 51.6 FG%, 75 FT%).

Others lost: Zamiro Bennem, G (5.4 ppg); Jens Jensen, G; Adam Stetson, F.

Starters returning (3): Malachi Edmond, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 47.2 FG%, 87.2 FT%, 41.8 3%; 1.3 spg); Jerry Green, G, 6-3/Jr. (15.6 ppg, 46.3 FG%, 79.1 FT%, 1.3 spg); Sean Jackson, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 77.3 FT%).

Other returnees: J.R. Christ, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (5 ppg, 54.5 FG%); Ben Jones, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 37.7 3%); Matt Okoro, F, 6-7/Sr.

Top newcomers: Stanislav Zuzak, F, 6-9/Fr.; Adam Parada, C, 7-0/Fr. (RS); Dave Korfman, C, 7-2/Jr. (JC); Albert Miller, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: After going 9-18 and 6-20 his first two seasons, Douglass' team came in at 14-14 last season. Better, but not quite what he's accustomed to. Douglass had 10 successive 20-win seasons and three Division II national championships at Cal State Bakersfield. The Anteaters return three starters, including leading scorer and point guard Green. Green, Edmond and Jackson comprise perhaps the top backcourt in the conference. Before this season, the Anteaters never had a 7-footer. Now they have two: JC transfer Korfman and redshirt freshman Parada. Another addition is Zuzak, a 225-pound forward from the Czech Republic. The Anteaters will also have forward Okoro full time. He was scheduled to redshirt last season but was activated midway through the season because of a void in the front-court. He grabbed 54 rebounds in only 16 games.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Irvine, Calif. **Home court:** Bren Events Center (5,000).

4 UC SANTA BARBARA National Rank: 135

Coach: Bob Williams (29-27, 2 years; 218-127 overall, 12 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-14. Big West Western Division: 10-6/2nd.

Starters lost (3): Derrick Allen, G (5.7 ppg, 5 rpg, 84 FT%, 3.7 apg, 1.6 spg); Erick Ashe, G (12 ppg, 80.7 FT%, 1.6 apg); Larry Bell, G (5 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 51.2

FG%, 5.3 apg, 1.8 spg).

Others lost: Ross Carmichael, F.

Starters returning (2): Mark Hull, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 5 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 78.5 FT%, 37.5 3%); Adama Ndiaye, F, 6-9/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 49.7 FG%, 1.7 bpg).

Other returnees: LaRon Bryant, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 41.3 3%); Brandon Payton, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 77 FT%); Juliano Jordani, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 37 3%); B.J. Ward, G, 6-1/Sr.; Mike Vukovich, F, 6-9/Jr..

Top newcomers: Jacoby Atako, G, 6-1/Fr.; Casey Cook, F, 6-8, F; Branduinn Fullove, F/G, 6-4/Fr.; Nick Jones, G, 6-4, Fr. (RS); J.J. Todd, F, 6-11/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: The Gauchos are pretty solid in the front-court, with Hull, who made the all-freshman team last season, and Ndiaye, the league's best shot blocker last season. Now all Williams has to figure out is how to get the ball to them. The Gauchos lost their top three guards, arguably the most talented threesome in the conference: Bell, Allen and Ashe. But the cupboard is hardly bare. Payton, who came off the bench last season, will probably man the point. And Williams recruited well, topped by freshman Fullove. The key to the Gauchos' success will be Hull, whose improvement was remarkable last season. He scored 10 or more points in 10 of his last 14 games, including a career-high 19 against Nevada.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Santa Barbara, Calif. **Home court:** The Thunderdome (6,000).

5 BOISE STATE National Rank: 142

Coach: Rod Jensen (79-62, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 12-15. Big West Eastern Division: 6-10/4th.

Starters lost (1): Justin Lyons, F/C (12.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 47.4 FG%).

Others lost: Michael Gely, C.

Starters returning (4): Clint Hordemann, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 5 rpg, 41.4 3%, 1.5 spg); Abe Jackson, F, 6-7/Jr. (16.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 83.3 FT%, 36 3%, 1.1 spg); C.J. Williams, G, 6-0/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 3.2 apg, 1.3 spg); Kejuan Woods, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 49.2 FG%).

Other returnees: Delvin Armstrong, F/G, 6-4/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 47.1 FG%, 38.5 3%); Scott Fraser-Dauphinee, F/G, 6-7/Sr.; Richard Morgan, C, 6-8/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 53.2 FG%); Joe Skiffer, G, 6-2/Sr.

Top newcomers: Langston Grady, G, 6-4/Fr.; Kenny Gainous, F, 6-8/Fr.; Booker Nabors, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS); Trevor Tillman, C, 6-11/Jr.; Quincy Wilder, G, 6-3/Sr. (transfer/USC).

Outlook: It's the last year in the Big West for the Broncos, who will leave next season for the Western Athletic Conference. They don't figure to depart quietly. Coach Rod Jensen lost only one player from last season's 12-15 club, and he has added point guard Wilder, a redshirt last season after transferring from USC, and center Tillman, who sat out last season in hopes of getting stronger. He has added 30 pounds. Two keys to the Broncos' success are Jackson, their leading scorer last season, and Kejuan Woods, who missed 11 games last season for personal reasons. Defense is always a high priority with Jensen—the Broncos allowed just a shade more than 62 points a game last season, second-best in the Big West. The Broncos pulled off 17 steals in a game last season against North Texas, high in the Big West for a conference game, and sophomore guard Skiffer had six of them. He's back as well.

Last league title: 1994 (Big Sky).

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Boise, Idaho. **Home court:** BSU Pavilion (12,380).

6 CAL POLY National Rank: 229

Coach: Jeff Schneider (65-77, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-18. Big West Western Division: 5-11/5th.

Starters lost (1): Mike Wozniak, G (16.3 ppg, 81.1 FT%, 38.4 3%); Jason King, G (10.3 ppg, 84.2 FT%, 39.2 3%).

Others lost: Mark Campbell, G (15.2 mpg); John Hoffart, C (11.8 mpg).

Starters returning (4): Chris Bjorklund, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (19.4 ppg, 7 rpg, 46.9 FG%); Jeremiah Mayes, F, 6-8/Sr. (13 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 52.3 FG%, 31.9 mpg); David Henry, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 80 FT%).

Other returnees: Michael Burris, G, 6-2/Sr.; Watende Favors, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.5 ppg); James Grace III, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (4.2 ppg).

Top newcomers: Varney Dennis, F, 6-7/Fr.; Jamaal Scott, G, 6-5/Fr.; Brandon Beeson, F, 6-6/Jr. (RS); Steve Geary, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Mustangs have failed to post a winning record their first four seasons in the Big West despite high expectations in each of the years. Once again, the Mustangs are expected to make a solid run, mostly because of forward Bjorklund, the second-leading scorer in the Big West last season, and newcomer Scott. The Mustangs return all but Wozniak, the school's all-time leading scorer. But consistency has been a problem in recent years. Two examples from last season: The Mustangs won a non-conference game at Indiana-Purdue, 72-67, then two weeks later lost to the same team at home, 66-62. Same thing against UC-Irvine in conference play. A key to success could be forward Mayes, who has made steady progress.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: San Luis Obispo, Calif. **Home court:** Mott Gym (3,032).

7 PACIFIC National Rank: 231

Coach: Bob Thomason (185-162, 12 years; 237-189 overall, 15 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-18. Big West Western Division: 6-10/4th.

Starters lost (1): Clay McKnight, G (11.8 ppg, 94.9 FT%, 39.3 3%, 27.9 mpg).

Others lost: Barry Marvel, F (6 ppg, 75.4 FT%); Bill Walton (5.2 ppg, 59.4 FG%, 81.3 FT%).

Starters returning (4): Nathan Davis, G, 6-2/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 29.4 mpg); Mike Hahn, F, 6-7/Jr. (6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 54.4 FG%, 26.1 mpg); Peter Heizer, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 25.6 mpg); Mike Preston, C, 6-9/Jr. (9.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 53.8 FG%).

Other returnees: Tom Cockle, G, 6-5/Sr. (4.7 ppg); Ray Harris/Jr., G, 6-2/Sr. (8.9 ppg); Eli Kiedrowski, F, 6-6/Jr.; Dan Masters, F, 6-7/Jr.; Ross Mills, C, 6-10/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 47.7 FG%).

Top newcomers: Bradley Bland, G, 5-9/Fr. (RS); Tim Johnson, C, 6-10/Sr. (RS); David Bunts, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Maurice McLemore, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Jono Metzger-Jones, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Tigers will roll out a red carpet to welcome back center Johnson, who was forced to sit out all of last season because of a foot injury. As a freshman in 1998-99, Johnson averaged 5.4 rebounds a game. He gave his foot a good test in the spring, when Pacific went 6-0 on its tour of Scandinavia. In all, the Tigers return 10 players including Johnson, four of them starters. The major void is the loss of sharpshooting guard McKnight, who was second in the conference last season with 77 3-point baskets. He also made 74 of 78 free throws. With Johnson back, Thomason, the dean of Big West coaches who is entering his 13th season at Pacific, will have a sizable frontcourt that includes Preston and Mills. Thomason brought in three junior college transfers, all of them guards: Bunts, McLemore and Metzger-Jones. The Tigers' string of seven successive plus-.500 seasons was snapped last year, but the future appears solid. There's only one senior on the squad.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Stockton, Calif. **Home court:** Spanos Center (6,150).

8 IDAHO

National Rank: 246

Coach: C. David Farrar (43-40, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 12-17. Big West Eastern Division: 6-10/T3rd.

Starters lost (5): Lance Buoncristiani, G (84.6 FT%, 21.8 mpg); Kaniel Dickens, F (12.1 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 48.6 FG%, 38.2 3%); Devon Ford, G/F (13.4 ppg, 52.1 FG%, 7.4 rpg); Clifford Gray, F (10.3 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 62 FG%); Gordon Scott, G/F (17.6 ppg, 38.9 3%, 2 spg).

Others lost: Anthony Lewis.

Starters returning: None.

Other returnees: Matt Gerscheffe, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 40.8 3%); Justin Logan, G, 6-0/Sr.; Adam Miller, G, 6-0/Sr.; Chris Monroe, C, 6-8/Sr.; Nathaniel Watson, G, 6-4/Jr.

Top newcomers: Roland Coppage, G, 6-2/Fr.; Bret Wise, F, 6-7/Fr.; Corry Beavers, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Bethuel Fletcher, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Rodney Hilaire, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Marquis Holmes, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Vandals struggled to the wire last season, losing seven of their last 10 games. Getting back on the plus side won't be easy: Idaho lost all of its five starters. The only experienced returnees are forward Gerscheffe and guard Logan, both part-time starters last season. Besides experience, the Vandals will be woefully short on size. Their tallest player is 6-8 center Monroe. When Farrar says his newcomers to the program can expect some playing time immediately, he means it. Key

additions are Beavers and Fletcher, both transfers from junior colleges in Kansas. The biggest plus for the Vandals in 2000-01 is their schedule. They'll actually play some games at their spacious Kibbie Dome. Last season, their first 10 games were on the road. They played only two nonconference games at home, and they didn't play the first one until January 4. This season, the Vandals will play 15 home games, including eight in the revamped Big West Conference.

Last league title: 1990 (Big Sky).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Moscow, Idaho. **Home court:** Kibbie Dome (10,000).

9 CAL ST. FULLERTON

National Rank: 304

Coach: Donny Daniels (first year).

1999-2000 record: 8-19. Big West Western Division: 3-13/6th.

Starters lost (3): Kenroy Jarrett, G (9.7 ppg, 4 apg, 1 spg); Mark Murphy, G (11.6 ppg, 83.7 FT%, 38.7 3%, 3.1 apg, 2.3 spg).

Others lost: Dan Thompson, F (5.6 ppg, 50.6 FG%, 52.6 3%).

Starters returning (2): Brandon Campbell, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (10.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 53.8 FG%, 48.1 3%); Josh Fisher, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 5 rpg, 49.3 FG%, 76.8 FT%, 48.6 3%); Ike Harmon, F, 6-7/Sr. (18.7 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 45.4 FG%, 1.1 bpg).

Other returnees: Matt Caldwell, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 50 FG%); Mitch Deve', C, 7-2/Sr.; Josh Pierson, G, 6-0/Sr.

Top newcomers: Keith Brooks, F/C, 6-7/Fr.; Ryan Dillon, G, 6-2/Fr.; Chris Smith, G, 5-9/Fr.; Joe Travis,

F/C, 6-7/Fr.; David Castleton, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Daniel Kohn, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS).

Outlook: Daniels has returned to Fullerton, where he played for two seasons in the 1970s and was an assistant on three different occasions. As the head coach, he's got his hands full. The Titans, who have not had a winning record since the 1992-93 season, are entering their second season of probation for recruiting violations in the early '90s. The severest penalty is a restriction on junior college recruiting, a fertile area for schools in the Cal State system. Yet Daniels has done well. He has two junior college walk-ons, swingmen Castleton and Richardson, plus three incoming freshmen from Southern California high schools, all of whom are expected to make an immediate impact, in Brooks, Travis and Dillon. Dillon's grandfather, Neale Stoner, played on Fullerton's first-ever team. Caldwell, a strong 6-8 center who was limited to seven games last season because of a shoulder injury, returns. But perhaps the most important offseason news came in early September, when 6-7 senior Harmon, a Prop 48 student, regained a fourth season of eligibility after completing his degree. A three-time all-Big West selection, Harmon has led the team in scoring and rebounding the last two seasons.

Last league title: 1976.

Last NCAA appearance: 1978.

Site: Fullerton, Calif. **Home court:** Titan Gym (3,500).

Schedules

Boise State	D30 at NC State	J31 Boise State	M1 at Pacific	D8-9 Husker Classic	J27 at Cal Poly	M1 at Utah State
N17 at Cincinnati	J4 Utah State	F2 Utah State	M3 UC Irvine	D13 Texas-Pan American	J31 Utah State	M3 at Boise State
N20 at Kansas	J6 Boise State	F8 at Boise State	Long Beach State	D16 TBA	F3 at Long Beach State	Utah State
N24 Albertson College	J8 Texas A&M	F10 at Utah State	N17at Southern Illinois	D30 UC Davis	F8 at Utah State	N16-19 Top of World Classic
N30 at Portland State	J13 UC Riverside	F15 Cal Poly	N21 Air Force	J4 Cal State Fullerton	F10 at Boise State	N25 Colorado
D2 at Portland	J18 at Pacific	F17 Pacific	N24-26 Big Island Invit.	J6 UC Irvine	F15 Pacific	N29 at Idaho State
D6 at Idaho State	J20 at Long Beach State	F22 Idaho	D2 Stanford	J11 at Boise State	F17 Cal Poly	D6 Utah
D9 Gonzaga	J25 Cal State Fullerton	F24 Long Beach State	D6 Pepperdine	J13 at Utah State	F22 Long Beach State	D9 Montana Tech
D16 at Weber State	J27 UC Irvine	M1 at UC Irvine	D9 at Idaho	J18 Cal Poly	F24 UC Riverside	D16 BYU
D19 San Francisco	J31 Pacific	M3 UC Riverside	D14 CS Dominguez	J22 at Idaho	M1 Cal State Fullerton	D20 at UC Riverside
D21-23 Pearl Harbor Cl.	F3 at Idaho	Idaho	D18 at Loyola Marymount	J25 Utah State	M3 Idaho	D23 Weber State
D28 San Diego	F7 Long Beach State	N10 Lewis-Clark State	D22 Texas A&M	J27 Long Beach State	UC Santa Barbara	D29-30 Gossner Foods Cl.
J4 at Cal Santa Barbara	F10 at Cal Santa Barbara	N17 Wisconsin-Green Bay	D30 at USC	J31 at Cal Poly	N19 at Pepperdine	J4 at Cal Poly
J6 at Cal Poly	F15 at Cal State Fullerton	N21 Western Montana	J3 at Utah	F3 Cal Santa Barbara	N21 San Francisco	J6 at Idaho
J11 Pacific	F17 at UC Irvine	N25 Gonzaga	J6 Cal State Fullerton	F15 at UC Irvine	N25 at BYU	J11 Long Beach State
J13 Long Beach State	F22 Cal Santa Barbara	N29 Washington State	J11 at Utah State	F17 at Cal State Fullerton	N29 at UCLA	J13 Pacific
J18 at UC Irvine	F24 Idaho	D2 at Saint Louis	J13 at Boise State	F22 Boise State	D2 Westmont College	J16 UC Riverside
J20 at Utah State	M1 at Boise State	D5 St. Martin's College	J18 at Cal Santa Barbara	F24 at Cal Santa Barbara	D6 San Diego State	J20 Boise State
J25 Idaho	M3 at Utah State	D9 Long Beach State	J20 Cal Poly	M1 Idaho	D9 USC	J25 at Pacific
J31 at Cal State Fullerton	Cal St. Fullerton	D14 at Montana	J24 UC Riverside	M4 at Long Beach State	D22 at St. Mary's	J27 Idaho
F8 Cal State Fullerton	N17 at Oregon State	D16 at Montana State	J27 at Pacific	UC Irvine	D27 at UC Riverside	J31 UC Irvine
F10 UC Irvine	N25 at UC Riverside	D23 Montana	F1 Cal Santa Barbara	N17 Howard	D30 Loyola Marymount	F2 at Cal State Fullerton
F14 at Long Beach State	N28 Pepperdine	D30 Eastern Washington	F3 UC Irvine	N21 Loyola Marymount	J4 Boise State	F8 UC Irvine
F17 at Idaho	D2 Coll. of Notre Dame	J2 at BYU	F7 at Cal Poly	N29 San Diego	J11 at Cal State Fullerton	F10 UC Fullerton
F22 at Pacific	D5 at Loyola Marymount	J6 Utah State	F10 Idaho	D2 California	J13 at UC Irvine	F15 at Cal Santa Barbara
F24 Utah State	D9 Wyoming	J11 at UC Irvine	F14 Boise State	D13 UC San Diego	J18 Long Beach State	F17 at Long Beach State
M1 Cal Poly	D16 Baylor	J13 Cal State Fullerton	F17 Utah State	D16 at UCLA	J20 at Idaho	F24 at Boise State
M3 Cal Santa Barbara	D21 at Eastern Kentucky	J20 Cal Santa Barbara	F22 at UC Irvine	D19 Belmont	J25 UC Irvine	M1 Cal Santa Barbara
Cal Poly	D23 at Valparaiso	J22 Pacific	F24 at Cal State Fullerton	D23 at UC Riverside	J27 Cal State Fullerton	M3 Cal Poly
N20 UC San Diego	D30 Northern Arizona	J25 at Boise State	F28 UC Riverside	D28 at Washington	F1 at Long Beach State	
N26 at Texas A&M	J4 at Pacific	J27 at Utah State	M4 Pacific	J3 at St. Mary's	F3 at Pacific	
N30 Cal St. Monterey	J6 at Long Beach State	F3 Cal Poly	Pacific	J6 at Pacific	F8 Idaho	
D2 Northern Arizona	J11 Cal Santa Barbara	F8 at Cal Santa Barbara	N18 Chico State	J11 Idaho	F10 Cal Poly	
D9 at San Francisco	J13 at Idaho	F10 at Long Beach State	N22 Santa Clara	J13 Cal Santa Barbara	F15 Utah State	
D14 Eastern Washington	J20 UC Irvine	F17 Boise State	N25 at Pepperdine	J18 Boise State	F17 UC Riverside	
D17 UC Riverside	J25 at Cal Poly	F22 at Cal State Fullerton	N27 Montana	J20 at Cal State Fullerton	F22 at Cal Poly	
D19 David Lipscomb U	J27 at Cal Santa Barbara	F24 Cal Poly	D4 at Fresno State	J25 at Cal Santa Barbara	F24 Pacific	

Southern

RANK 18

South Division

1 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

National Rank: 97

Coach: John Kresse (517-127, 21 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 24-6. Southern/South: 13-3/1st.

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Mills Hawkins, G; Derek Miller, F; Marco Sanders, F.

Starters returning (5): Jeff Bolton, G, 6-3/Jr. (15.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 78.8 FT%, 1.4 spg); Leighton Bowie, F, 6-6/So. (12 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 57.5 FG%); James Griffin, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.5 ppg); A.J. Harris, G, 6-0/So. (4.2 ppg, 1 spg); Jody Lumpkin, C, 6-8/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 9 rpg, 57.8 FG%, 1.7 spg, 3.1 bpg).

Other returnees: Mike Benton, C, 6-9/So.; Pat Davis, F, 6-6/So.; Tyrone Nelson, G, 5-11/Jr.; Rudy Rothseiden, C, 6-8/So.; Troy Wheless, G, 6-3/So. (5.8 ppg).

Top newcomers: Shannon Chambers, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Nick Dyer, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Quinton Hollis, G, 6-2/Fr.; Rob Masters, F, 6-5/Fr.; Thomas Mobley, F, 6-5/Fr.; Joe Weurding, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: The Cougars are loaded and ready to reclaim their place atop the Southern after falling in last season's tournament title game. Only three seldom-used reserves did not return to this year's squad, which includes Lumpkin, the league's most dominant player. The Cougars are the most athletic team in the league and use their trademark defense to strangle opponents into submission. They made it to the title game with five freshmen among their top eight players, and that experience will be helpful this season. Charleston needs to improve its perimeter shooting, which faded down the stretch and collapsed in the tournament. If that happens, and Benton and Rothseiden continue to develop into low-post threats, the Cougars could be back in the NCAA Tournament.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** John Kresse Arena (3,500).

2 WOFFORD

National Rank: 141

Coach: Richard Johnson (213-196, 15 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-16. Southern/South: 8-8/3rd.

Starters lost (2): Rashane DeLoach, C (6.4 ppg, 4 rpg, 53.1 FG%); Starzee Walker, G (13.1 ppg, 40.7 3%, 1.0 spg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Ian Chadwick, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 80.3 FT%); Bishop Ravenel, F, 6-7/Sr. (7 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Jon Pryor, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.8 ppg, 3.5 apg).

Other returnees: Mike Lenzly, G, 6-1/So. (6.4 ppg); Lee Nixon, G, 6-4/So. (5.8 ppg); Kenny Hastie, C, 6-8/Jr.; Grant Sterley, F, 6-7/So.; Colon Largent, G, 6-3/Jr.

Top newcomers: Wilky Colin, G, 6-4/Fr.; Edmond Davis, G, 5-10/So.; David Eaton, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: The Terriers have increased their win total four consecutive years, and this season they will try to do more than nip at Charleston's heels. They

return three starters, but everything revolves around Chadwick. The league's top returning scorer and possibly the best player ever at the school, Chadwick tacked on much-needed pounds in the weight room this summer. He forms an experienced backcourt with Pryor, a good decision-maker, floor leader and defender who will be asked to contribute even more this season. Ravenel continues to improve at power forward. Largent, the team's top defender, and the ultra-quick Nixon will rotate in the small forward position. Among the newcomers, Eaton will allow Chadwick to get an occasional breather.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Spartanburg, S.C. **Home court:** Benjamin Johnson Arena (3,500).

3 GEORGIA SOUTHERN

National Rank: 161

Coach: Jeff Price (16-12, 1 year; 152-54 overall, 7 years).

1999-2000 record: 16-12. Southern/South: 10-6/2nd.

Starters lost (2): Donta Humphries, G (6.8 ppg, 5.1 apg, 1.7 spg); Hamp Jones, F (13.2 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 1.8 spg).

Others lost: Quentin Martin, G (4.1 ppg); DeMario Slocum, G (8.5 ppg); Ra'Shawn Tart, F (4.6 ppg); Kerry Willis, G.

Starters returning (3): Julius Jenkins, G, 6-2/So. (15.5 ppg, 1.6 spg); Kashien Latham, F, 6-9/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 1 bpg); Todd Shipley, G, 6-0/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 3.0 apg).

Other returnees: Sam Cox, G, 6-6/Jr.; Edward Keith, F, 6-6/Jr.; Greg Spurgeon, G, 6-5/Sr.; Wayne Wooley, F, 6-6/Jr. (4.2 ppg).

Top newcomers: Frank Bennett, F, 6-7/Fr.; Marcus Byams, F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Kenny Faulk, G, 6-3/Fr.; Kordel Gibson, F, 6-5/So. (JC); Shannon James, G, 6-0 Fr.; Terry Odom, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Sean Peterson, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Eagles are coming off their first winning season since 1993, and Price now has them thinking championship. His uptempo style, sparked by an aggressive full-court pressure defense, will get a lift from one of the conference's better recruiting classes. The newcomers join a solid nucleus that includes Jenkins, who was second-team all-conference as a freshman. Latham gives Georgia Southern an athletic big man. Bennett, an all-state player from Florida, could slide into the starting lineup in place of the rugged Jones, whose rebounding and second-chance buckets will be missed. The Eagles' all-or-nothing defense gives up too many transition baskets, and the rebounding still could suffer from the emphasis on smaller, quicker players.

Last league title: 1992 (TAAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Statesboro, Ga. **Home court:** Hanner Fieldhouse (4,378).

4 CHATTANOOGA

National Rank: 234

Coach: Henry Dickerson (49-46, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-19. Southern/South: 6-10/4th.

Starters lost (3): Rashun Coleman, G/F (16.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg); Otis Donald, F (4.7 rpg, 1.5 bpg); David

By Rick Nelson

The Charleston Post and Courier

Predictions

South Division

1. College of Charleston*
2. Wofford
3. Georgia Southern
4. Chattanooga
5. Furman
6. The Citadel

North Division

1. UNC-Greensboro
2. Davidson
3. Appalachian State
4. East Tennessee State
5. Western Carolina
6. VMI

*NCAA tourney team

Preseason All-Southern

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Casey Rogers, Western Carolina	6-0	170	Jr.
G	Ian Chadwick, Wofford	6-4	195	Sr.
G	Jeff Bolton, Charleston	6-3	170	Jr.
F	Karim Souchu, Furman	6-7	210	So.
C	Jody Lumpkin, Charleston	6-8	250	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Courtney Eldridge, UNC-Greens.	5-9	170	Jr.
G	Julius Jenkins, Ga. Southern	6-2	170	So.
F	Leighton Bowie, Charleston	6-6	200	So.
F	Kashien Latham, Ga. Southern	6-9	225	Jr.
C	Oliver Morton, Chattanooga	6-10	250	Sr.

Player of the Year

Jody Lumpkin, C, College of Charleston

Newcomer of the Year

David Schuck, F, UNC-Greensboro

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Ian Chadwick, Wofford

Best rebounder: Jody Lumpkin, College of Charleston

Best playmaker: Casey Rogers, Western Carolina

Best defender: Jody Lumpkin, College of Charleston

Best leaper: James Griffin, College of Charleston

Most versatile: Karim Souchu, Furman

Most flamboyant: Jeff Bolton, College of Charleston

Best NBA prospect: Ian Chadwick, Wofford

Phillips, G/F (11.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg).

Others lost: John Cape, F; Greg Clark, F.

Starters returning (2): Idris Harper, G, 6-3/Sr. (6 ppg, 4.4 apg); Oliver Morton, C, 6-10/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 6.2 rpg).

Other returnees: Rongie Cowser, G, 6-1/Sr. (6.7 ppg); Brian Dickerson, G, 5-11/So.; Tim Parker, G, 6-4/So. (8.2 ppg); J.B. Watkins, G, 5-11/So.

Top newcomers: Neil Ashby, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Alabama); Chris Bishop, F, 6-6/Fr.; Clyde McCully, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Carl Pullian, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Bryan Richardson, G, 6-5/Fr.; Diamory Sylla, G, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Michael Townsend, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Toot Young, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Chemistry will be a key with the Mocs having up to four players in new starting positions. Harper, who gamely tried to play point guard last season, will be more effective at his natural small forward spot. McCully, a Division II All-American with 400 assists in two years, will provide some stability at the point. The Mocs are more athletic than last season and will look to run more, but they won't be wearing out any track shoes. Morton has developed into one of the league's best centers and will benefit from having a power forward who can shoot away from the basket. Leading scorer Coleman will be missed. The Mocs have to improve

their free-throw shooting to have a chance in close games.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Chattanooga, Tenn. **Home court:** The McKenzie Arena (Roundhouse) (11,218).

5 FURMAN National Rank: 241

Coach: Larry Davis (35-54, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-18. Southern/South: 5-10/T5th.

Starters lost (1): Stanislav Makshantsev, C (14.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg).

Others lost: Kyle Julius, G (7.8 ppg); Dusan Milicic, G/F; Steve Petrovic, C.

Starters returning (4): Guilherme Da Luz, G, 6-2/So. (8.8 ppg, 5 apg); Marcus Dilligard, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Karim Souchu, F, 6-7/So. (15.8 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 54.1 FG%, 1.8 spg); Anthony Thomas, G, 6-4/Jr. (9.5 ppg).

Other returnees: Darrell Arbaugh, F/C, 6-7/So. (5.8 ppg); P.J. Brown, G, 6-1/Sr.; Paul Foster, G, 6-0/Jr.; Kenny Zeigler, F, 6-5/So. (5.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg).

Top newcomers: Maleye Ndoye, G/F, 6-8/Fr.; Marijan Pojatina, C, 7-0/Fr.

Outlook: The young Paladins will try to build on the momentum from their surprise run into the semifinals of the league tournament. But that might be difficult after the loss of Makshantsev, their best rebounder and biggest defensive presence. Davis still has Souchu, who proved as a freshman that his basketball is as good as his French. Da Luz is a solid point guard with size who adds to the roster's international flavor. Dilligard and Thomas will be asked to step up their scoring for a team that needs more pop from the perimeter. If they do, the Paladins could move into the top three in the division. Furman remains one of the league's best defensive teams and is tough at home, which means the Paladins can be dangerous against anyone.

Last league title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1980.

Site: Greenville, S.C. **Home court:** Timmons Arena (5,000).

6 THE CITADEL National Rank: 302

Coach: Pat Dennis (88-130, 8 years).

1999-2000 record: 9-20. Southern/South: 5-10/T5th.

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (5): Travis Cantrell, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.9 ppg); Gregg Jones, C, 6-7/So. (4.3 ppg, 5.3 rpg); Allen Puckett, F, 6-3/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 42.8 3%, 1.2 spg); Mike Roy, G, 5-10/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 3.1 apg); Cliff Washburn, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg).

Other returnees: Michael Joseph, F, 6-4/So. (7.7 ppg); Romas Krywonis, F, 6-6/So.; Kenny Milford, G, 6-0/So.; Ben Tobias, F, 6-6/So.; Ben Walters, C, 6-8/So.; Clyde Wormley, G, 6-4/So.

Top newcomers: Max Mombollet, F, 6-8/Fr.; Erick Wilson, G, 6-0/Fr.

Outlook: The good news is former Bulldogs coach Les Robinson came back from N.C. State to become The Citadel's athletic director. The bad news is he didn't bring any players with him. It looks like another uphill climb for Dennis, whose teams play hard on defense but lack athleticism and depth. Several key players will be together for the third year, which could help. The Bulldogs' best offensive weapon is Puckett, whose hot hand from the 3-point line can keep The Citadel in games. But there just isn't enough help, and The Citadel and VMI probably won't be around after the first round of the Southern tournament again this season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** McAlister Field House (6,000).

North Division

1 UNC GREENSBORO National Rank: 151

Coach: Fran McCaffery (15-13, 1 year; 64-52 overall, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-13. Southern/North: 9-7/3rd.

Starters lost (2): Demetrius Cherry, C (13.7 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 53.4 FG%, 50 3%); Sam Brinson, F (9.5 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 37.5 3%, 1 spg, 1.3 bpg).

Others lost: Warren Cunningham, G; Eugene Love, G; Ricardo Trevisan, C; Robert Wilson, F.

Starters returning (3): Courtney Eldridge, G, 5-9/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 5.1 apg); Nathan Jameson, G, 6-1/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 87.8 FT%, 39.8 3%); James Maye, F, 6-5/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 5.9 rpg).

Other returnees: Luke Boythe, F, 6-6/So.; Aaron Chavis, F, 6-5/Sr.; David Schuck, F, 6-8/Jr.; Geoff Williams, F, 6-2/Sr. (4.2 ppg).

Top newcomers: Tizzo Johnson, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jay Joseph, G, 6-4/Fr.; Sean McCarthy, C, 6-11/Fr.; Nathan Popp, C, 7-2/Fr.; Ronnie Taylor, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: McCaffery engineered an impressive turnaround in his first season, and now he has the Spartans poised to make a run at the North Division title. The core of the team is a trio of veteran starters who all averaged in double figures last season. One of the best recruiting classes in the league gives the Spartans a deep and talented bench and the option of going with a big or small lineup. The team's strength is in the low post, where the Spartans can throw an array of large bodies at opponents. Cherry, a monster on the boards, was the team's best player, which makes the loss of Brinson's rebounding skills a concern. Schuck, who was fifth in the Western Athletic Conference in rebounding while at Air Force, will try to pick up some of the slack.

Last league title: 1996 (Big South).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Fleming Gym (2,320).

2 DAVIDSON National Rank: 155

Coach: Bob McKillop (169-144, 11 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-13. Southern/North: 10-6/2nd.

Starters lost (3): Landry Kosmalski, F (14.6 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 50.5 FG%); Stephen Marshall, C (15.9 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 59.3 FG%); Brian Turner, F (8.3 ppg, 3 rpg).

Others lost: Jeff Bergmann, G (5.2 ppg); Davor Halbauer, G.

Starters returning (2): Wayne Bernard, G, 6-3/So. (9 ppg, 37.3 3%); Fernando Tonella, G, 6-0/Jr. (3.4 ppg, 3.3 apg).

Other returnees: Michael Bree, G, 6-0/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 3 rpg); Emeka Egege, F, 6-5/Jr. (RS); Jason Dickens, F, 6-8/So. (6.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg); Martin Ides, C, 7-2/Jr.

Top newcomers: Nick Booker, G, 6-5/Fr.; Jouni Eho, F/G, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: The Wildcats remain among the league's elite, but they could slip a notch this season after having lost their starting frontcourt, which included their two best players in Marshall and Kosmalski, both all-conference performers. Davidson will also miss the team-high 40 3-pointers from Bergmann. In their absence, and with no seniors on the roster, the younger players will look to Egege for leadership. Bernard, an all-freshman selection last season, must pick up some of the scoring load. Dickens and Ides, who is one of several players who will hold down the center position, give the Wildcats one of the league's biggest one-two punches. With depth a

potential problem, expect newcomers Booker and Eho to get a chance to show what they can do almost immediately.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Davidson, N.C. **Home court:** Belk Arena (5,700).

3 APPALACHIAN STATE National Rank: 187

Coach: Houston Fancher (first year; 44-41 overall, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 23-9. Southern/North: 13-3/1st. Lost to Ohio State in NCAA South first round.

Starters lost (3): Cedric Holmes, F (11.6 ppg, 7.5 rpg); Matt McMahon, G (6.7 ppg); Tyson Patterson, G (14.4 ppg, 6.8 apg).

Others lost: Rufus Leach, G (16.4 ppg); Kent Phillips, F.

Starters returning (2): Shawn Alexander, G, 6-2/Jr. (11 ppg, 5 rpg); Cory Cooper, C, 6-8/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 5 rpg).

Other returnees: Brian Boxler, C, 6-11/Fr. (RS); Jonathan Butler, G, 5-11/Jr.; Buddy Davis, 6-7/Jr. (5.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Nick Huge, G, 6-4/So.; Mike Patten, F, 6-7/So.; Josh Shehan, C, 6-9/So.

Top newcomers: Noah Brown, G, 6-1/Fr.; Terry Collins, G, 6-6/Fr.; Josh Hare, F, 6-6/Fr.; Donald Payne, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Demetric Stevens, G, 6-0/Fr.

Outlook: Unfortunately for the Mountaineers, league player of the year Patterson, who almost single-handedly won the title game against Charleston last season, has moved on. The Mountaineers also lost Leach, the team's leading returning scorer, who drowned at a lake over the summer. A perimeter-oriented team, the Mountaineers now have only one double-digit scorer from last season. But as the team has improved over the past few years, so have the recruits, and Stevens is a keeper at point guard. Brown was a late signee whose athleticism and deft shooting will be put to use this season. Just don't count on the Mountaineers to lead the league in scoring.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Boone, N.C. **Home court:** George M. Holmes Convocation Center and Seby Jones Arena (8,300).

4 EAST TENNESSEE STATE National Rank: 239

Coach: Ed Dechellis (49-61, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-15. Southern/North: 8-8/4th.

Starters lost (1): Leo Murray, F (11 ppg, 8.1 rpg).

Others lost: Gareth Davis, C; Michael Griffith, G (6.1 ppg); Gabe Lisicky, G (5.4 ppg).

Starters returning (4): Dimeco Childress, G, 6-3/Jr. (10 ppg); Cliff Decoster, G, 6-0/Jr. (6.8 ppg); D.J. McDuffie, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.8 ppg); Adrian Meeks, F, (8.9 ppg, 6.9 rpg).

Other returnees: Renaldo Johnson, F, 6-7/Sr. (4 ppg); Ryan Lawson, G, 6-2/So.; Isaac Potter, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Tim Boyd, F, 6-5/Fr.; Jerald Fields, F, 6-4/Fr.; Cory Seels, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Zakee Wadood, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: ETSU has progressed each year under Dechellis, who has transformed the former cellar-dweller into a respectable program. The Buccaneers have experience with the trio of Childress, Decoster and McDuffie. However, they will miss Murray, a tough rebounder whose rugged play set the tone for the team. They did gain some depth with a good recruiting class, which is highlighted by a potential starter in Seels. He gives them much-needed size on the front line to go with the broad-shouldered Meeks, one of the league's best rebounders. Still, point guard needs an upgrade before ETSU can become a first-division team. The Bucs also need to find a go-to player on the offensive end, with

Childress and Meeks the most likely candidates, and cut down on turnovers.

Last league title: 1992 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Johnson City, Tenn. **Home court:** Memorial Center (13,000).

5 WESTERN CAROLINA

National Rank: 260

Coach: Steve Shurina (first year).

1999-2000 record: 14-14. Southern/North: 7-9/5th.

Starters lost (3): Leon Davis, F (8.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg);

Jarvis Hayes, G (17.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg, transferred to

Georgia); Dondrell Whitmore, F (13.1 ppg, 7.6 rpg).

Others lost: Jonas Hayes, F (8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 63

FG%, transferred to Georgia); Colin Kearns C.

Starters returning (2): Cory Largent, F, 6-6/Jr. (8.9

ppg); Casey Rogers, G, 6-0/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 7.6 apg).

Other returnees: Ricky Gandy, G, 6-4/Sr. (7.9 ppg,

52.7 FG%); Kori Hatcher, G, 5-9/So.; Neil Rasnake,

G, 6-4/Sr.; Todd Seibert, C, 6-9/Sr.; Cory Wells, G, 6-

3/Sr.

Top newcomers: Emre Atsur, G, 6-3/Fr.; Matt

Bohandler, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Rans Brempong, F, 6-8/Fr.;

Willie Freeman, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Peter Okwalinga, C,

6-10/Sr. (JC); Alexander Osipovich, G, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: Shurina has his work cut out for him. He

inherits the best passer in the league, Rogers, but

the Catamounts have little else going for them. Their

best player, freshman of the year Jarvis Hayes, transferred to Georgia with his brother Jonas after former coach Phil Hopkins was fired. Another player was dismissed from the team. Maybe that's why the Catamounts went for international players in their recruiting, picking up a shot blocker in Okwalinga and the athletic Osipovich. Scoring will be much more difficult without Jarvis Hayes, who was the first freshman to lead the league in scoring in more than 40 years. Rebounding also will be a chore without Whitmore, but Largent continues to improve and likely will pick up some of the slack.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Cullowhee, N.C. **Home court:** Ramsey Center (7,826).

6 VMI

National Rank: 305

Coach: Bart Bellairs (72-94, 6 years; 93-121 overall, 8 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-23. Southern/North: 1-15/6th.

Starters lost (2): Aaron Demory, F (12.2 ppg, 5.7

rpg); Andre Quarles, G (11 ppg, 3.3 apg).

Others lost: Mike Gilbert, F; Chad Kenna, F.

Starters returning (2): Richard Bruce, G, 6-3/Sr.

(9.4 ppg, 35.9 3%); Eric Mann, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (7.3 ppg,

7.9 rpg, 1.8 bpg).

Other returnees: Tim Cole, C, 6-9/Jr.; Mark Grigsby,

G, 6-2/Jr.; Jeremy Harper, G, 6-2/So. (6.7 ppg, 87.2 FT%); Renard Phillips, G, 5-7/Jr.; Aaron Trombley, F, 6-9/Sr.; Adam Trombley, F, 6-9/So. (6.7 ppg, 4 rpg).

Top newcomers: Jason Conley, F, 6-4/Fr.; Rich Little, G, 5-10/Fr.; Daron Pressley, G, 6-0/Fr.; Radee Skipworth, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: Bellairs did a great job on the recruiting trail, garnering a top 100 recruiting class by some estimates, which is no easy feat at a military school. Conley is the best of the bunch and could start immediately. VMI's full-court pressure defense is designed to create havoc, which it can do, but when it doesn't, the Keydets are prone to giving up the easy basket. Rebounding remains a problem despite Mann's efforts, and it won't get any better with the loss of Demory, who also was one of the team's best defensive players. Bellairs will need a reliable replacement for Quarles, who had become a solid point guard. But while VMI still lacks the firepower to slug it out with most of the league, the future does look a little brighter. It might not happen this season, but if the Keydets can develop their newest recruits, they just might climb their way out of the basement.

Last league title: 1977.

Last NCAA appearance: 1977.

Site: Lexington, Va. **Home court:** Cameron Hall (5,029).

Schedules

Appalachian State

N17 North Carolina
N20 Robert Morris
N24-26 Big Island Invit.
N30 at Liberty
D2 at Purdue
D6 Gardner-Webb
D14 UNC Asheville
D16 at East Carolina
D18 Mars Hill
D21 Richmond
D30 at Indiana State
J3 VMI
J6 at UT Chattanooga
J8 UNC Greensboro
J13 Charleston
J15 at E. Tennessee St.
J20 Western Carolina
J23 at Davidson
J27 East Tennessee St.
J29 The Citadel
F3 at Georgia Southern
F5 at Western Carolina
F10 Davidson
F12 Furman
F17 at Wofford
F19 UNC Greensboro
F24 at VMI

The Citadel

N17 Methodist College
N20 Limestone
N25 at Clemson
N28 Ferrum College
D2 at William & Mary
D5 South Carolina
D9 Oglethorpe
D18 South Carolina St.
D22 at Coastal Carolina
D29-30 Capital City Cl.
J2 UNC Greensboro
J6 at E. Tennessee St.
J8 Western Carolina
J13 VMI
J15 at Wofford
J20 at Georgia Southern
J22 at Charleston
J27 UT Chattanooga
J29 at Appalachian St.

F3 Wofford

F5 Georgia Southern

F10 at UT Chattanooga

F12 Charleston

F17 at Furman

F19 at Davidson

F24 Furman

Col. of Charleston

N17 at Charleston So.
N20 at UT Chattanooga
N24-26 Hawaii Pacific Cl.
D9 Gardner Webb
D15 S.C.-Aiken
D20-21 State Farm Cl.
D29-30 Food Lion Cl.
J3 at Furman
J6 Georgia Southern
J8 at Wofford
J13 at Appalachian St.
J15 Western Carolina
J17 Stony Brook
J20 Wofford
J22 The Citadel
J27 at Georgia Southern
J29 at Coastal Carolina
F3 UNC Greensboro
F5 at E. Tennessee St.
F10 Furman
F12 at The Citadel
F17 VMI
F19 UT Chattanooga
F24 at Davidson

Davidson

N16-19 Top of World Cl.
N24 at Georgia Tech
N28 Pennsylvania
N30 Carnegie Mellon
D2 at Elon
D5 at Duke
D9 UNC Charlotte
D16 Rhodes
D21 Wash. & Jefferson
D29-30 Lobo Invitational
J3 at Western Carolina
J6 at UNC Greensboro
J8 E. Tennessee St.
J13 at Georgia Southern

J20 VMI

J23 UNC Greensboro

J27 Appalachian St.

J31 at VMI

F3 Furman

F5 at Wofford

F10 at Appalachian St.

F12 Western Carolina

F17 at E. Tennessee St.

F19 The Citadel

F24 Charleston

East Tennessee St.

N17 Lynchburg
N19 at Tennessee
N22 Virginia Comm.
N24 at Vanderbilt
N28 UNC Asheville
D2 at Morehead State
D5 Warren Wilson
D8 at Radford
D18 at Virginia Tech
D21 Ferrum College
D30 at James Madison
J2 at UT Chattanooga
J6 The Citadel
J8 at Davidson
J13 at Western Carolina
J15 Appalachian St.
J20 Furman
J22 at VMI
J27 at Appalachian St.
J29 at UNC Greensboro
F3 Western Carolina
F5 Charleston
F10 at Georgia Southern
F13 UNC-Greensboro
F17 Davidson
F19 VMI
F24 at Wofford

Furman

N18 Atlanta Christian
N21 at Belmont
N25 at Coastal Carolina
N29 Charleston So.
D2 at Bet.-Cookman
D4 at Florida State
D9 Stetson

D16 at Vanderbilt

D21 at New Mexico

J3 Charleston

J6 at Wofford

J10 VMI

J13 UNC Greensboro

J15 Georgia Southern

J20 at E. Tennessee St.

J22 at UT Chattanooga

J27 Wofford

J29 Western Carolina

F3 at Davidson

F5 UT Chattanooga

F10 Charleston

F12 at Appalachian St.

F17 The Citadel

F19 at Georgia Southern

F26 at The Citadel

Georgia Southern

N18 North Georgia
N21 Jacksonville
N25 at High Point
N29 at Evansville
D2 Belmont
D3 at Winthrop
D6 Reinhardt
D9 at Mercer
D16 at Belmont
D19 at Auburn
D28 at Illinois State
J3 Wofford
J6 at Charleston
J8 UT Chattanooga
J13 Davidson
J15 at Furman
J20 The Citadel
J22 at Western Carolina
J27 Charleston
F3 at Wofford
F9 Appalachian St.
F5 at The Citadel
F10 E. Tennessee St.
F12 at VMI
F17 at UNC Greensboro
F19 Furman
F24 at UT Chattanooga

UNC Greensboro

N17 at Minnesota
N21 Guilford
N25 at West Virginia
D1 at Northeastern
D3 at St. Peter's
D5 at NC State
D9 at Norfolk St.
D22 Winthrop
D28 at East Carolina
D31 UNC Asheville
J3 at The Citadel
J6 Davidson
J8 Appalachian St.
J13 at Furman
J15 at VMI
J17 N.C. A&T
J20 UT Chattanooga
J22 Wofford
J27 at Davidson
J29 E. Tennessee St.
F3 at Charleston
F5 VMI
F10 Western Carolina
F12 at E. Tennessee St.
F17 Georgia Southern
F19 at Appalachian St.
F24 at Western Carolina

Chattanooga

N17 at Tennessee
N20 Charleston
N25 Tennessee Tech
N28 Tenn. Wesleyan
D1-2 Hawkeye Chall.
D13 at UAB
D18 Pikeville College
D23 Virginia Tech
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl.
J2 E. Tennessee St.
J6 Appalachian St.
J11 at Georgia Southern
J13 Wofford
J15 Davidson
J20 at UNC Greensboro
J22 Furman
J27 at The Citadel
F3 at VMI
F5 at Furman

F10 The Citadel

F13 at Wofford

F17 at Western Carolina

F19 Charleston

F24 Georgia Southern

VMI

N18 at Virginia Tech
N20 at James Madison
N29 Howard
D2 at Howard
D4 Virginia
D6 Morehead State
D16 at Old Dominion
D20 Mary Washington
D28 at South Carolina
J2 at Appalachian St.
J6 Western Carolina
J10 at Furman
J13 at The Citadel
J15 UNC Greensboro
J20 at Davidson
J24 E. Tennessee St.
J27 at Western Carolina
J30 Davidson
F3 UT Chattanooga
F5 at UNC Greensboro
F10 Wofford
F12 Georgia Southern
F15 at Charleston Southern
F17 at Charleston
F21 at E. Tennessee St.
F24 Appalachian St.

Western Carolina

N17 Vanderbilt*
N18 St. Joseph's*
N19 S.C. State*
N21 Lee University
N27 St. Mary's
D2 at Clemson
D4 at UNC Asheville
D7 Stetson
D9 at Belmont
D12 Mercer
D30 at Iowa State
J3 Davidson
J6 at VMI

J8 at The Citadel

J10 Belmont

J13 E. Tennessee St.

J15 at Charleston

J20 at Appalachian St.

J22 Georgia Southern

J27 VMI

J29 at Furman

F3 at E. Tennessee St.

F5 Appalachian St.

F10 at UNC Greensboro

F12 at Davidson

F17 UT Chattanooga

F19 Wofford

F24 UNC Greensboro

*Nashville, Tenn.

Wofford

N17 at Georgia Tech
N21 at South Carolina
N25 Guilford
N27 Toccoa Falls
N29 William & Mary
D2 at Boston College
D7 at Alabama
D9 Emmanuel
D16 at Clemson
D18 Bryan (Tenn.)
D21 at Vanderbilt
J2 at Georgia Southern
J6 Furman
J8 Charleston
J13 at UT Chattanooga
J15 The Citadel
J20 at Charleston
J22 at UNC Greensboro
J27 at Furman
J29 Georgia Southern
F3 at The Citadel
F5 Davidson
F10 at VMI
F13 UT Chattanooga
F17 Appalachian St.
F19 at Western Carolina
F24 E. Tennessee St.

Colonial Athletic

RANK
19

By **JOHN O'CONNOR**

Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch

Predictions

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Richmond | 6. American |
| 2. George Mason* | 7. Old Dominion |
| 3. James Madison | 8. East Carolina |
| 4. UNC Wilmington | 9. William and Mary |
| 5. Va. Commonwealth | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Colonial

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington	6-3	190	Soph.
F/G	Jim Moran, William and Mary	6-7	225	Sr.
F	George Evans, George Mason	6-7	225	Sr.
C	Patrick Doctor, American	6-9	235	Jr.
F	Greg Stevenson, Richmond	6-6	220	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Bo Jones, Va. Commonwealth	5-11	190	Sr.
G	Reggie Brown, Richmond	6-4	185	Soph.
F	Erik Herring, George Mason	6-5	200	Sr.
F	Andre McCullum, Old Dominion	6-6	210	Sr.
F	Kinte Smith, Richmond	6-5	180	Sr.

Player of the Year

George Evans, F, George Mason

Newcomer of the Year

Ron Anderson, F, James Madison

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Bo Jones, Virginia Commonwealth
Best rebounder: George Evans, George Mason
Best playmaker: Travis Holcomb-Faye, East Carolina
Best defender: Jim Moran, William and Mary
Best leaper: Erik Herring, George Mason
Most versatile: Greg Stevenson, Richmond
Most flamboyant: Erik Herring, George Mason
Best NBA prospect: Jesse Young, George Mason

Thelmon will help Blizzard with scoring, but that has never been what it's all about for Wainwright's teams. The team averaged a league-low 60.1 points last year. It allowed an average of only 57.5, continuing the trend that has made the Seahawks the team nobody in the CAA enjoys facing. **Last league title:** 1998 (tie). **Last time didn't make NCAA field:** 1999. **Site:** Wilmington, N.C. **Home court:** Trask Coliseum (6,100).

5 VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH

National Rank: 173

Coach: Mack McCarthy (29-30, 2 years; 272-152 overall, 14 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 14-14. Colonial: 7-9/5th

Starters lost (1): Shawn Hampton, F, (10.1 ppg, 6.8 rpg, transferred/Rutgers).

Others lost: Reggie Okosa, F (6.7 ppg, 21.1 mpg, transferred/La Salle); Hunter Hoggatt, G (83.3 FT%); Patrick Kodjoe, F (4.1 ppg, 77.8 FT%).

Starters returning (4): Bo Jones, G, 5-11/Sr. (16.5 ppg, 84.4 FT%); LaMar Taylor, G, 5-10/Sr. (12.3 ppg); Matt Treadwell, C, 6-11/So. (4.3 ppg); Josy Graham, F, 6-6.

Other returnees: Scott Lilly, G, 6-1/Sr. (5.9 ppg); L.F. Likholitov, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.0 ppg).

Top newcomers: Johnnie Story, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Domic Jones, G, 6-1 Fr.; Denis Orlov, C, 7-2/Fr.; Willie Taylor, F/G, 6-5/So. (transfer/Georgetown).

Outlook: The Rams eked out a 14-14 record in 1999-2000 with only one senior, who played part time. So the Rams, loaded with experience, are poised for a breakthrough

1 RICHMOND

National Rank: 80

Coach: John Beilein (55-32, 3 years; 402-237, 22 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 18-12. Colonial: 11-5/3rd.

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (5): Reggie Brown, G, 6-4/So. (10.6 ppg, 35.6 3%); Greg Stevenson, F, 6-6/Sr. (18.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 42.2 3%); Kinte Smith, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 3.2 apg); Scott Ungerer, G/F, 6-7/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 4.8 apg, 75.5 FT%); Tim Faulconer, C, 6-11/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 2.4 bpg).

Other returnees: Rick Houston, G/F/Sr. (5.2 ppg).

Top newcomers: Mike Skrocki, F, 6-6/Fr.; Mike Stringer Jr., G, 5-9/Fr.

Outlook: Stevenson's brother, Jarod, drove the Spiders to the '98 NCAA tournament as a senior. Now Greg will try to lead the team. He led the league in scoring last year, doing damage inside and out, and ranked second in rebounding. He's the key in a program that returns every player. Smith and Brown provide plenty of offense on the wings, but Beilein's team occasionally struggled last season against pressure defense. Freshman Stringer could help there. The Spiders may have a future pro in Faulconer, if he can add and keep strength. Stevenson and plenty of experience should push the team to the top of the league, although an NCAA appearance appears out of reach as the team is leaving for the Atlantic 10 Conference after the season and was banned from the 2001 CAA tourney.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Richmond, Va. **Home court:** Robins center (9,171).

2 GEORGE MASON

National Rank: 89

Coach: Jim Larranaga (47-40, 3 years; 245-209 overall, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-11. Colonial: 12-4/T1st.

Starters lost (2): Keith Holdan, F (10.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg); Ahmad Dorsett, G (9.9 ppg, 41.8 3%, 82.8 FT%).

Others lost: Tyrone Tiggs, G.

Starters returning (3): George Evans, F, 6-7/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 8.5 ppg, 1.7 bpg); Erik Herring, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 38.9 3%); Tremaine Price, G, 5-8/Sr. (6.4 ppg).

Other returnees: Rob Anderson, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (5.2 ppg); Terrance Nixon, F, 6-6/Sr.; Jesse Young F, 6-10/So. (3.4 ppg).

Top newcomers: Deon Cooper, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Rob Sullivan, G, 6-0/Fr.; Richard Tynes, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: Army veteran and two-time CAA player of the year Evans will turn 30 during the season. The interior strength, consistency and unselfishness of this 6-7 post player make the Patriots a title contender. Herring, a springy 6-5 senior, can be the league's toughest player to guard, though he sometimes disappears for stretches. George Mason also features rapidly developing Young, a sophomore with face-the-basket skills, but it will miss Hoidan, an excellent passer, perimeter shooter and leader. The search for a steady point guard continues. Larranaga, with Evans back for his fourth season as a CAA force, will continue to push the ball inside to the league's most physical player. If the team can find some backcourt depth to complement what it has up front, look for Larranaga's "scramble defense" to apply taxing, full-court pressure.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Fairfax, Va. **Home court:** Patriot Center (10,000).

3 JAMES MADISON

National Rank: 98

Coach: Sherman Dillard (47-36, 3 years; 76-88 overall, 6 years).

1999-2000 record: 20-9. Colonial: 12-4/T1st.

Starters lost (3): Jabari Outtz, G (17.2 ppg, 4 rpg, 4.4 apg); Jamar Perry, G (11.5 ppg, 36.2 3%, 81.2 FT%); Rob Strickland, C (7.6 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1.6 bpg).

Others lost: Kevan Johnson, F.

Starters returning (2): Mickey Dennis, G, 6-3/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 87.7 FT%); Tim Lyle, F, 6-8/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 85.7 FT%).

Other returnees: Pat Mitchell, F, 6-7/So. (6.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Dwayne Braxton, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.3 ppg); David Fanning, G, 6-0/So.

Top newcomers: Ron Anderson, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/N.C. State); Kevin Bower, F, 6-7/Fr.; Dwyane Broyles, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Ian Caskill, C, 6-10/So. (3.3 ppg); Chris Williams, G, 6-2/Fr.; Kenny Whitehead, C/F, 6-10/Jr.

Outlook: With a different player leading the way nearly every game, the Dukes emerged as the CAA's most surprisingly successful outfit last season. Four solid seniors, including creative point guard Outtz, are gone. Now we'll see how fourth-year coach Dillard, a former James Madison star, recruited. The ability to pull out tight games was the team's winning knack in 2000, but Outtz's down-the-stretch dominance had lots to do with that. Into more prominent roles step Dennis, a 3-point specialist, 250-pound Mitchell and Fanning, who experienced an up-and-down freshman year. The depth has thinned with the departure of Outtz, Strickland, Perry and Johnson. Dillard's young-but-dangerous club needs to identify a go-to scorer, and he hopes Caskill can supply 30 minutes of solid play at center after backing up Strickland. The team should get a lift from Anderson, who redshirted last season after transferring from North Carolina State.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Harrisonburg, Va. **Home court:** JMU Convocation Center (7,156).

4 UNC WILMINGTON

National Rank: 100

Coach: Jerry Wainwright (84-82, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 18-13. Colonial: 8-8/4th. Lost to Cincinnati in NCAA South first round.

Starters lost (2): Victor Ebong, F (6.6 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Ramond Perine, G (9.2 ppg, 36.8 3%).

Others lost: Danny Dahl, G (3.4 ppg); Oleg Kojenets, C (6.7 ppg, 76.7 FT%).

Starters returning (3): Brett Blizzard, G, 6-3/So. (15.6 ppg, 2 spg, 46.8 3%); Barron Thelmon, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 41.2 3%, 79.1 FT%); Marcus Green, F, 6-9/Sr. (4.5 rpg).

Other returnees: Stewart Hare, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.8 ppg); Dominick Scott, G/Sr.

Top newcomers: Tim Burnette, G, 6-1/Fr.; Brandon Clifford, F, 6-9/Fr.; Joel Justus, F, 6-6/Fr.; Anthony Terrell, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ed Williams, F, 6-6/Jr.

Outlook: The defending champion Seahawks start with defense, as they have throughout Wainwright's tenure. But this season they also possess one of the CAA's top offensive players in Blizzard, who last season became the only freshman in the Colonial's 15-year history to be named first team all-conference. Blizzard brings a terrific deep shooting touch and the ability to hit the medium-range jumper when challenged beyond the arc. Green and the newcomers must carry the interior defensive load that departed Kojenets and Ebong shared for the Seahawks.

year, right? Maybe not. Inside regulars Hampton and Okosa transferred to Rutgers and La Salle, respectively. McCarthy will try a new formula, one that emphasizes youth and quickness. Willie Taylor and Story are expected to make an immediate splash. The veteran leadership and most of the point production probably will come from the senior backcourt of Jones, a long-range threat who can dominate a game or hurt his team with poor shot selection, and penetrating point guard LaMar Taylor. The team lacked inside scoring last season. That's where McCarthy needs improved play from Likholitov and Treadwell. Better ball-handling is a must, since the team led the CAA in turnovers (16.7 average).

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Richmond, Va. **Home court:** Stuart C. Siegel Center (7,500).

6 AMERICAN National Rank: 192

Coach: Jeff Jones (first year; 146-104 overall, 8 years; 6-5 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 11-18. Colonial: 5-11/T8th.

Starters lost (1): Jarion Childs, PG (8.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg).

Others lost: David Olsen, G.

Starters returning (4): Patrick Doctor, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (15.4 ppg, 7 rpg); Ronald Hearn, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 75 FT%); Tim Washington, F, 6-8/So. (7.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Saliou-Binet Telly, C, 6-8/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 6.1 rpg).

Other returnees: Hasheem Alexander, G, 6-3/So. (7.5 ppg); Keith Gray, F, 6-8/Jr. (6.7 ppg); Dejaun Goodwin, G, 6-1/Sr.

Top newcomers: Derek Ahern, C, 6-10/Fr.; Deon Saunders, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Kevin Bell, G, 6-3/Fr.; Brian Williams, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jernavis Draughn, G/F, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: For years, the Eagles have been pushed around in the paint. That may change this season. New coach Jones, who directed Virginia previously, takes over a program that includes four dependable post players, including Doctor. He'll get help from Gray, Telly and Washington. Jones' work will be the development of green guards trying to take over for departed Childs, a four-year starter who was one of the CAA's finest point men. Sophomore Alexander probably will run the show, playing beside Hearn, a hot-and-cold sniper and son of former boxing great Thomas Hearn. American gets a quick boost at small forward from junior college transfer Williams. The lack of close-range scoring was illustrated last season by the fact the Eagles shot only 40 percent overall, the lowest in the league. That figure should jump with the expected interior development, but can the team find a consistent ballhandler and shoot well enough from outside? American switches to the Patriot League following this season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Bender Arena (5,000).

7 OLD DOMINION National Rank: 207

Coach: Jeff Capel (109-80, 6 years; 188-145 overall, 11 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 11-19. Colonial: 6-10/T6th.

Starters lost (1): Skipper Youngblood, C (12.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg).

Others lost: Freddie Bryant, G (5.3 ppg, 1 spg); Lavar Hemphill, G (4.2 ppg).

Starters returning (4): Andre McCullum, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.9 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1 spg, 78.4 FT%); Michael Williams, G, 6-0/Sr. (10.1 ppg); Ricardo Marsh, F, 6-7/So. (5.6 ppg); Pierre Greene, G, 6-2/Jr. (6 ppg, 1.2 spg).

Other returnees: Clifton Jones, F/G, 6-7/Sr. (6 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 54.1 3%); Aron McMillan, C, 6-9/Jr.; Rasheed Wright, F, 6-5/So.

Top newcomers: Charles Dunnington, C, 6-9/Fr.; Joe Principe, C, 6-9/Fr.; Darren Dickerson, G, 6-0/Fr.; Clay McGowen, C, 6-11/Fr.; Troy Nance, G, 5-10/Fr.; John Waller, G/F, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: The Monarchs finished below .500 in the CAA for the first time since they joined the league in 1992, and that slide may extend if Capel can't find some consistent scorers. His best all-around player in 1999-2000, Youngblood, is gone, leaving few capable forwards but a major vacancy at center. McGowen may be plugged in right away if McMillan can't raise his level of play. The best chance to improve on a scoring average of 64.7 points is to get the ball in the hands of McCullum, Jones and Marsh, who is one of the CAA's best young players. A pair of freshman point guards, Dickerson and Nance, might get early playing time for a program that was missing steady backcourt play last season. Capel also needs some perimeter firepower for a team that struggled from beyond the arc (30.6 percent).

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Norfolk, Va. **Home court:** The Scope (10,239), ODU Field House (4,855).

8 EAST CAROLINA National Rank: 215

Coach: Bill Herrion (10-18, 1 year; 177-89 overall, 9 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 10-18. Colonial: 5-11/T8th.

Starters lost (3): Garrett Blackwelder, G (10.5 ppg, 40.1 3%); Neil Punt, F/C (9.9 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 50 FG%); Quincy Hall, C (4.2 ppg).

Others lost: Evaldas Jocyis, F (9.9 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 36.7 3%); Alphons van Ierland, C (4 ppg); Steven Branch, F.

Starters returning (2): Kenyatta Brown, F, 6-4/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 37.7 3%); Brandon Hawkins, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 76.1 FT%).

Other returnees: Travis Holcomb-Faye, G, 6-1/So. (5.3 ppg, 3 apg, 37.5 3%); David Taylor, F/G, 6-4/Sr.; Vinston Sharpe, F, 6-5/Sr. (4.4 rpg); Larry Morrissey, G, 6-2/Sr. (3 ppg); Bryan Foxx, G, 6-1/Jr.

Top newcomers: Erroyl Bing, F, 6-6/Fr.; Jimmy Bishop, G,

6-5/Fr.; Jake Fugal, C, 6-9/Jr.; Gabriel Mikulas, F, 6-8/Fr.; Fred Primus, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Craig Savage, G/F, 6-5/So. (transfer/Elizabeth City State).

Outlook: Poor chemistry and poor health sent the Pirates to the bowels of the CAA last season, Herrion's first as coach after his great run at Drexel. He will try to clean up a messy scene by rebuilding around the perimeter pair of Holcomb-Faye and Hawkins. Incoming guard Bishop may be the answer to the 3-point shooting weakness created by the departure of Blackwelder. The major problems are inside, where Punt will be sorely missed. The career of van Ierland, an athletic big man who would have been a senior this season, was halted by health considerations. A heavy recruiting class, which includes Mikulas of Argentina and junior college transfer Primus, must give the Pirates a quick fix if they're going to rise in their final season of CAA affiliation. They move to Conference USA next season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1983.

Site: Greenville, N.C. **Home court:** Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum (7,500).

9 WILLIAM AND MARY National Rank: 240

Coach: Rick Boyages (first year; 45-49 overall, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-17. Colonial: 6-10/T6th.

Starters lost (1): Scotty Scott, G (8.2 ppg, 43.5 3%).

Others lost: James Haunty, F.

Starters returning (4): Jim Moran, F/G, 6-7/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.4 spg, 35.4 mpg); Mit Winter, G/F, 6-7/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 84.3 FT%, 35.6 3%); Tom Strohbehn, F, 6-9/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Adam Duggins, C, 6-11/So. (8.1 ppg, 1.9 rpg).

Other returnees: Mike Johnson, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 83.3 FT%); Sherman Rivers, G, 6-0/So. (6.5 ppg); Cody Carbaugh, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.8 mpg).

Top newcomers: Zeb Cope, F, 6-9/Fr.; Reid Markham, G, 6-3/Fr.; Alex English, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: Stepping down was Charlie Woollum, who had been a head coach since 1975. Stepping in is Rick Boyages, a former Ohio State and Boston College assistant. He inherits a player package that's highlighted by Moran, a versatile forward and quality leader. Duggins was better than expected early last season but faded. Point guard Rivers could turn out to be among the league's best. But the team lacks overall quickness. That deficiency will be helped immediately by Cope and English, son of the NBA Hall of Famer by the same name. English was projected as a starter last season before rupturing his Achilles' tendon days before the Tribe's opening practice. Johnson, a power player who switched from Oklahoma State, supplied some inside toughness last season. But a rookie coach and a slowish team will probably add up to another tough season for a program that's regularly in the Colonial's second division.

Last league title: 1998 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Williamsburg, Va. **Home court:** William and Mary Hall (8,600).

Schedules

American	East Carolina	George Mason	James Madison	Old Dominion	William and Mary
N18 Norfolk State	J27 at George Mason	J3 William & Mary	N28 at Coppin State	J24 at William & Mary	D21 at Illinois-Chicago
N21 at West Virginia	J31 at William & Mary	J6 at Va. Commonwealth	D2 at Toledo	J27 Morgan State	J3 James Madison
N25 Loyola (Md.)	F3 at Va. Commonwealth	J9 Richmond	D6 at American	F3 at UNC Wilmington	J6 American
N29 Bucknell	F7 Old Dominion	J13 at UNC Wilmington	D9 at James Madison	F5 at East Carolina	J10 William & Mary
D2 at Coastal Carolina	F10 at East Carolina	J17 Old Dominion	D20 Coastal Carolina	F10 Richmond	J13 at George Mason
D6 George Mason	F12 at UNC Wilmington	J20 at American	D22 Miami of Ohio	F14 Old Dominion	J17 at East Carolina
D9 William & Mary	F21 at Richmond	J22 at George Mason	D29-30 Cable Car Classic	F17 at George Mason	J20 Va. Commonwealth
D12 Howard	F24 James Madison	J27 Va. Commonwealth	J3 Richmond	F21 William & Mary	J25 at Norfolk State
D21 at Jacksonville		J30 at Old Dominion	J6 UNC Wilmington	F24 at American	J27 Richmond
D23 at Florida		F3 George Mason	J10 at Va. Commonwealth		J30 East Carolina
D28 Eastern Kentucky	N17-18 Pepsi-Marist Tour.	F5 James Madison	J13 Old Dominion		F7 at American
D30 at Wagner	N22 Robert Morris	F10 American	J17 at William & Mary		F10 at UNC Wilmington
J3 Va. Commonwealth	N25 at Saint Louis	F14 at Richmond	J22 East Carolina		F14 at James Madison
J6 at Old Dominion	N29 Belmont	F17 UNC Wilmington	J27 American		F17 at William & Mary
J8 UNC Wilmington	D2 Radford*	J29 at Birm. Southern	J29 at Detroit		F21 George Mason
J13 at James Madison	D6 at James Madison	F24 at William & Mary	F3 at East Carolina		F24 at Va. Commonwealth
J20 East Carolina	D16 Appalachian St.	*Roanoke, Va.	F5 at UNC Wilmington		F26 UNC Wilmington
J22 at Bucknell	D21 Presbyterian College		F10 William & Mary		
J24 Richmond	D28 UNC Greensboro		F14 Va. Commonwealth		
	D30 at Central Florida		F17 James Madison		

Richmond N17 Radford N20 Wake Forest N25 at Western Michigan N30 at Texas Christian D2 at Mississippi State D6 Old Dominion D9 Va. Commonwealth D12 Marist D21 at Appalachian St. D29-30 Food Lion MVP Cl. J3 at George Mason J6 James Madison J9 at East Carolina J12 McNeese State J17 at UNC Wilmington	J20 William & Mary J24 at American J27 at Old Dominion J31 UNC Wilmington F3 at William & Mary F5 Navy F10 at James Madison F14 East Carolina F17 at Va. Commonwealth F21 American F24 George Mason UNC Wilmington N17-18 Sooner Invitational N21 at Duquesne N27 Bowling Green D2 at Valparaiso	D6 at William & Mary D9 Old Dominion D16 at Butler D18 at Marquette D22 Central Florida D28 at Cincinnati J2 Radford J6 at George Mason J8 at American J10 High Point J13 East Carolina J17 Richmond J20 at James Madison J22 at Va. Commonwealth J27 William & Mary J31 at Richmond	F3 James Madison F5 George Mason F10 at Old Dominion F12 American F17 at East Carolina F21 Va. Commonwealth Va. Commonwealth N17 Gardner-Webb N20 at Tulane N22 at E. Tennessee St. N25 Mississippi N28 North Carolina A&T D2 Texas A&M D6 at Texas Christian D9 Florida Atlantic D17 Pittsburgh	D20-22 San Juan Shootout D30 at UAB J3 at American J6 East Carolina J10 George Mason J13 at William & Mary J17 James Madison J20 at Old Dominion J22 UNC Wilmington J27 at East Carolina J31 at James Madison F3 American F7 William & Mary F14 at George Mason F17 at Richmond F21 at UNC Wilmington	F24 Old Dominion F27 Richmond William & Mary N17 at Fordham N20 at Virginia Tech N25 Winthrop N29 at Wofford D2 The Citadel D6 UNC Wilmington D9 at American D29-30 Lobo Invitational J3 at East Carolina J6 High Point J10 at Old Dominion J13 Va. Commonwealth J15 at Hampton	J17 George Mason J20 at Richmond J24 James Madison J27 at UNC Wilmington J31 American F3 Richmond F7 at Va. Commonwealth F10 at George Mason F12 at Campbell F17 Old Dominion F21 at James Madison F24 East Carolina
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America East

RANK 20

1 HOFSTRA

National Rank: 110

Coach: Jay Wright (96-80, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 24-7. America East: 16-2/1st. Lost to Oklahoma State in NCAA East first round.

Starters lost (1): Speedy Claxton, G (22.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 47 FG%, 76.4 FT%, 38.1 3%, 6.0 apg, 3.3 spg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (4): Roberto Gittens, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 59.2 FG%); Jason Hernandez, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 87.8 FT%, 40.7 3%, 1.1 spg); Norman Richardson, F, 6-5/Sr. (16.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 79.6 FT%, 35.3 3%, 1.1 spg); Greg Springfield, C, 6-9/Sr. (4.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 54 FG%, 1.7 bpg).

Other returnees: Rick Apodaca, G, 6-3/So. (7.1 ppg); Mike Feeley, F, 6-6/Jr.; Jeff Fox, G, 5-10/Sr.; Lars Grubler, C, 6-11/So. (46.2 FG%); Abdou Sylla, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.3 rpg, 56.8 FG%); Danny Walker, F, 6-6/So.; Marc Petit, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Joel Suarez, G, 6-1/Fr.; Mike Radziejewski, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Osei Millar, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer, Boston College).

Outlook: "Speedy" Claxton is in the NBA now, so it's vital that Suarez produce right away. If not, Hernandez and Apodaca must handle the job, and neither has Claxton's juice. Swingman Richardson could be a first-round pick next year. He does everything well. Gittens is a willing banger, and Springfield hits the boards and plays great defense. Millar should have an impact up front after he sits out the first semester.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Hempstead, N.Y. **Home court:** Hofstra Arena (5,124).

2 DREXEL

National Rank: 144

Coach: Steve Seymour (13-17, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 13-17. America East: 9-9/5th.

Starters lost (3): Chris Burch, F (8.4 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 45.2 FG%); Bryant Coursey, G (11.5 ppg, 4 rpg, 4.7 apg, 1.4 spg); Tom Dearborn, G (5.7 ppg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (2): Mike Kouser, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 39.7 3%, 1.1 spg); Stephen Starks, G, 6-5/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 77.3 FT%, 37.1 3%).

Other returnees: Robert Battle, C, 6-8/So. (55.2 FG%); Ashley Howard, G, 6-0/So. (92.3 FT%); Joe Linderman, C, 6-9/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 46.2 FG%); Petrick Sanders, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.6 ppg); David Stec, G, 6-4/Sr.; Jay Overcash, G, 6-3/So.; Tim Whitworth, G, 6-6/Fr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Sean Brooks, F, 6-6/Fr.; Pat Deveney, F, 6-

8/Fr.; Henry Fairfax, G/F, 6-4/So.; Jamil Moore, G, 6-4/Fr.; Brett Storm, G, 6-2/Fr.; Eric Schmieder, G, 6-3/So. (JC).

Outlook: The Dragons have the conference's best frontcourt. Linderman is a double-double machine, and Kouser has inside-outside scoring capabilities. It's the guard line that needs an upgrade. Even with Coursey last season, the Dragons scored only 63 ppg and distributed the ball poorly. Seymour will try to replace him with some combination of Howard, Storm and Schmieder. Starks is a capable wing scorer who should be pushed by Fairfax.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** Physical Education Athletic Center (2,300).

3 DELAWARE

National Rank: 158

Coach: David Henderson (first year).

1999-2000 record: 24-8. America East: 14-4/3rd. Lost to Villanova in NIT first round.

Starters lost (4): Mike Pegues, F (20.8 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 51.2 FG%, 76.6 FT%, 1.0 spg, 1.1 bpg); John Gordon, G (10.3 ppg, 95.7 FT%, 38.1 3%); Kestutis Marcilionis, G (14.3 ppg, 82.2 FT%, 36.6 3%, 1.4 spg); Ndongo Ndiaye, C (5.2 rpg, 52.9 FG%, 3.1 bpg).

Others lost: Madou Diouf, F (7.4 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 54.2 FG%, 50 3%); Darryl Presley, F (10.8 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 52 FG%, 80.4 FT%, 1.1 bpg).

Starters returning (1): Billy Wells, G, 6-0/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 39.2 3%, 1.6 spg).

Other returnees: Greg Miller, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 95.8 FT%); Austen Rowland, G, 6-1/So. (4.1 ppg); Dave Arnold, G, 6-1/Sr.; Dave Hindenlang, F, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: Mike Ames, G, 6-3/Fr.; Ajmal Basit, F, 6-9/Sr. (transfer/UMass); Maurice Sessoms, F, 6-8/So. (transfer/Wisconsin); Robin Wentt, F, 6-8/Fr.; Mark Curry, F, 6-5/Fr.; Sean Knitter, F, 6-8/Fr.; David Lunn, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: New coach David Henderson welcomes some top-shelf frontcourt arrivals, which he hopes to team with under-rated backcourt holdovers on a deep, dangerous team. Basit, a mixture of tremendous talent and questionable attitude, could be great or he could be gone in 10 games. Sessoms couldn't crack Wisconsin's talented frontcourt but has enough game for America East. If Wells, Miller and Rowland solidify the backcourt, Henderson's first year could be a fun one.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Newark, Del. **Home court:** Carpenter Center (5,000).

4 BOSTON UNIVERSITY

National Rank: 159

Coach: Dennis Wolff (93-83, 6 years; 123-101 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 7-22. America East: 5-13/8th.

Starters lost (2): Jean Avebe, F (12.1 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 52.4 FG%); Mike Costello, G (9.6 ppg, 77.3 FT%, 36.4 3%, 1.8 spg, 32.3 mpg).

Others lost: Derek Franklin, G (7.1 ppg).

Starters returning (1): Paul Seymour, G/F, 6-6/So. (12.1 ppg, 79.1 FT%, 36.5 3%, 31.1 mpg).

Other returnees: Jerome Graham, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.6 ppg); Jacob Kudlacz, F, 6-7/So.; Ignacio Rodriguez, C, 6-8/Jr. (4.7 ppg); Matt

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

Free-lance writer from Philadelphia

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Hofstra* | 6. Vermont |
| 2. Drexel | 7. Towson |
| 3. Delaware | 8. Northeastern |
| 4. Boston University | 9. Hartford |
| 5. Maine | 10. New Hampshire |
- *NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-America East

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tony Orciari, Vermont	6-3	180	Sr.
G	Norman Richardson, Hofstra	6-5	200	Sr.
F	Mike Kouser, Drexel	6-7	230	Sr.
F	Brian Barber, Towson	6-6	205	Sr.
C	Joe Linderman, Drexel	6-9	240	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Huggy Dye, Maine	6-2	195	Jr.
G	Marcus Blossom, Northeastern	6-2	180	Sr.
F	Roberto Gittens, Hofstra	6-7	240	Sr.
F	Julian Dunkley, Maine	6-10	225	Sr.
F	Paul Seymour, Boston University	6-6	195	So.

Player of the Year

Joe Linderman, C, Drexel

Newcomer of the Year

Tamir Goodman, G, Towson

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Jason Hernandez, Hofstra
Best rebounder: Joe Linderman, Drexel
Best playmaker: Marcelle Williams, New Hampshire
Best defender: Marcus Blossom, Northeastern
Best leaper: Matt Turner, Boston University
Most versatile: Mike Kouser, Drexel
Most flamboyant: Norman Richardson, Hofstra
Best NBA prospect: Norman Richardson, Hofstra

Turner, G, 5-9/So. (8.0 ppg, 1.1 spg).

Top newcomers: Ryan Butt, F, 6-7/Fr.; Billy Collins, G/F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer, Rutgers); Stijn Dhondt, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Kevin Fitzgerald, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: The Terriers have the conference's deepest collection of big men. Adding Collins and Dhondt to the already versatile group that includes Seymour, last year's America East Rookie of the Year, should create problems for foes. Kudlacz, Graham and Rodriguez are solid inside performers who are willing to hit the boards and defend. Turner will distribute the ball in place of Franklin. Fitzgerald also will get a chance at the point, and Collins is expected to be a big producer from the wing.

Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Boston. **Home court:** Case Gym (1,800).

5 MAINE

National Rank: 162

Coach: John Giannini (61-56, 4 years; 229-94 overall, 11 years).

1999-2000 record: 24-7. America East: 15-3/2nd.

Starters lost (2): Andy Bedard, G (12.7 ppg, 35.6 3%, 82.4 FT%, 6.9 apg, 2.3 spg); Nate Fox, F (17.5 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 46.2 3%, 77.7 FT%, 1.5 spg).

Others lost: Corey Thibodeau, G (76.5 FT%).

Starters returning (3): Huggy Dye, G, 6-2/Jr. (14.7 ppg, 46.3 FG%, 84.4 FT%, 38.5 3%, 1.2 spg); Julian Dunkley, F, 6-10/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 75.7 FT%, 37.5 3%); Derrick Jackson, G, 6-2/So. (6.3 ppg, 89.7 FT%, 35.6 3%, 1.0 spg).

Other returnees: Carvell Ammons, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 63.1 FG%); Colin Haynes, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 50.5 FG%, 46 3%); Jamar Croon, F, 6-9/Jr.; Tom Waterman, G, 5-10/So.; Todd Tibbetts, F, 6-6/Jr.

Top newcomers: Tony Cavalieri, G, 5-11/Fr.; Erick Greene, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (RS); Andre Riley, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Ricky White, G/F, 6-4/So.; Clayton Brown, F, 6-7/So. (transfer/James Madison).

Outlook: If Greene, who missed all but two games last season because of a foot injury, is healthy, the Bears should have a potent backcourt. Dye should be productive, especially from long range. But somebody (Cavalieri? Dye?) must step up to handle the point. Up front, Brown should provide some needed heft to complement Dunkley, Ammons and Haynes. The Bears will score plenty. If they defend, Maine may be happy once again.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Orono, Maine. **Home court:** Alford Arena (5,712).

6 VERMONT

National Rank: 206

Coach: Tom Brennan (163-223, 14 years; 215-298 overall, 19 years).

1999-2000 record: 16-12. America East: 11-7/4th.

Starters lost (3): Tobe Carberry, G (13.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.6 spg); Craig Peper, F (11.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 50.3 FG%); David Roach, G (6.2 ppg, 82.2 FT%, 4.4 apg, 1.4 spg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (2): Tony Orciari, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 84 FT%, 1.4 spg); Trevor Gaines, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 55.6 FG%).

Other returnees: Andre Anderson, G, 6-1/So.; Grant Anderson, F, 6-7/So.; Eric Barrett, F, 6-7/Sr.; Ryan Driggers, G, 6-5/Sr.; Corry McLaughlin, F, 6-8/Jr.; Scotty Jones, F, 6-9/So. (46.8 FG%); Matt Sheftic, F, 6-8/So.; Corey Sullivan, G/F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Taylor Coppenrath, F, 6-8/Fr.; T.J. Sorrentine, G, 5-11/Fr.; Jed Thibault, G, 5-11/Fr.; Michael Tolliver, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: Orciari and Gaines form a strong inside-outside duo, and youngsters Jones and Sheftic ought to add punch to the frontcourt. Brennan's top challenge comes at the point, where Roach must be replaced. Sorrentine hopes to fill that void. Another newcomer to watch is Coppenrath, a strong interior scorer. Vermont will be good enough to bother some of the big

boys but not strong enough to make a charge to the top.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Burlington, Vt. **Home court:** Patrick Gym (3,228).

7 TOWSON

National Rank: 225

Coach: Mike Jaskulski (25-59, 3 years; 87-107 overall, 7 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-17. America East: 7-11/6th place.

Starters lost (3): Damon Cason, G (8.8 ppg, 88.7 FT%, 37.7 3%, 4.25 apg, 1.5 spg); Raul dePablo, G (7.8 ppg, 75.8 FT%, 42.0 3%); Josh Davalli, F (5.7 ppg, 47.6 FG%, 1.4 spg).

Others lost: Marlin Wise, G (4.2 ppg, 37.5 3%); Torin Ragin, F (4.5 ppg).

Starters returning (2): Brian Barber, F, 6-6/Sr. (17.0 ppg, 53.9 FG%, 31.4 mpg); Shaun Holtz, C, 6-8/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg).

Other returnees: Brian Allen, G, 5-11/So. (40.0 3%); Kerry Augustus, F, 6-6/Jr.; Tim Hyle, G, 6-3/So.; Mike Shin, C/F, 6-7/Jr. (4.8 ppg, 46.2 FG%); Gerald Weatherspoon, G, 6-2/So.

Top newcomers: Mohamad Fofana, F, 6-8/Fr.; Derrick Goode, C, 6-11/Fr.; Tamir Goodman, G, 6-3, G/Fr.; Sam Sutton, F/G, 6-4/Jr. (RS).

Outlook: Goodman, one of the country's most talked-about prospects, is expected to bring fortification to a backcourt that loses three key performers. If Allen can handle the point chores, Towson will be fine at guard. Up front, Barber and Holtz are solid producers but must cut back on their turnovers. Expect Shin to round out the starting five. Towson may stay in the middle of the pack, but Goodman will make life interesting for Tigers fans.

Last league title: 1991 (East Coast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Towson, Md. **Home court:** Towson Center (5,000).

8 NORTHEASTERN

National Rank: 268

Coach: Rudy Keeling (38-73, 4 years; 144-195 overall, 12 years).

1999-2000 record: 7-21. America East: 5-13/9th.

Starters lost (2): Changa Adams, C (4.3 ppg, 49.5 FG%); Terry Krings, G (7.1 ppg, 81.8 FT%, 40.2 3%, 1.0 spg).

Others lost: Cortez Bond, F; Kareen Harris, G; Marquis Wright, F (46.5 FG%); John Alexander, G.

Starters returning (3): Marcus Blossom, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 46.0 FG%, 79.2 FT%, 1.9 spg); Toby Brittain, G, 6-4/So. (10.1 ppg, 1.6 spg); Tyrone Hammick, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 57.9 FG%).

Other returnees: Jean Bain, G, 5-11/Jr. (9.7 ppg, 81.6 FT%); Tim West, F, 6-5/Jr. (48.1 FG%); George Aygar, G, 6-10/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 50.9 FG%, 1.1 bpg); Dwayne Barnes, G/F, 6-4/Sr.

Top newcomers: Jean Francois, F, 6-5/Fr.; Cleophus Morris, G, 5-10/Fr.; Lunzaya Mlandu, F, 6-7/Fr.; Ricky Cranford, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Lorenzo Davis, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Last year, Brittain was on the all-America East rookie team, following the lead of Bain, who was Rookie of the Year in 1998-99. Blossom, however, is the best of the guards and could thrive this season, if his 3-point shooting improves. Hammick and Aygar also are expected to be better, and coach Keeling thinks Davis will have an impact in the middle and on the backboards, where the Huskies struggled last season.

Last league title: 1991.

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Boston. **Home court:** Cabot Gym (2,500).

9 HARTFORD

National Rank: 293

Coach: Larry Harrison (first year).

1999-2000 record: 10-19. America East: 6-12/7th.

Starters lost (2): Darrick Jackson, G (15.8 ppg; 83.2 FT%, 1.8 spg); Riyad King, G (6.3 ppg, 3.6 apg, 1.5 spg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Pierre Johnson, F, 6-6/So. (10.2 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 54.0 FG%); Rob Sawicki, F/C, 6-10/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 87.2 FT%); Keyon Smith, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (13.4 ppg).

Other returnees: Bryan Evans, G, 6-1/So.; Garvin Gordon, F, 6-8/Sr. (47.1 FG%); Todd Jones, C, 6-9/Jr. (1.3 bpg); Wayne McClinton, G, 6-2/So. (4.8 ppg, 1.0 spg); Josh Odugbela, F, 6-8/So. (5.1 ppg); Mantas Storpirstis, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.1 ppg).

Top newcomers: Louis Bosley, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ryan Stys, G, 6-1/Fr.; Adam Ellis, F, 6-5/Fr.; Sonny Rozier, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: Larry Harrison takes over the Hawks after building a reputation as one of the nation's top recruiters while at DePaul and Cincinnati. His first priority is to make Hartford more effective on defense and on the backboards. Expect scoring pop to come from Smith and Johnson. Ellis and Rozier also have promise. But the Hawks need help at guard, where winger McClinton must step up, and Evans or Stys needs to handle the point.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: West Hartford, Conn. **Home court:** Chase Family Arena (4,475).

10 NEW HAMPSHIRE

National Rank: 295

Coach: Phil Rowe (3-25, 1 year; 183-174 overall, 14 years).

1999-2000 record: 3-25. America East: 2-16/10th.

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Mark Yeaton, G (5.6 ppg); Dan Rasanen, F.

Starters returning (5): Chris Brown, F, 6-4/Jr. (10.7 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 1.8 spg); Colin Donahue, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.3 spg); Austin Ganly, F, 6-6/Jr. (8.7 ppg, 37 3%); Rob Marquardt, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.9 bpg); Marcelle Williams, G, 5-11/So. (13.6 ppg, 1.3 spg).

Other returnees: Ruben Bush, G, 6-1/So.; Shawn Collette, G, 6-0/So.; John Dullea, G, 6-0/So.; Assane Faye, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.8 ppg, 37.2 3%); Brett LeFlem, G, 6-2/Sr. (75 FT%).

Top newcomers: Marcus Bullock, G, 6-0/Fr.; Brady Catlett, G, 6-4/Fr.; Allen Gould, F, 6-6/Fr.; Matt Kauderer, F, 6-8/Fr.; Kyle Peterson, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Jeff Senulis, F, 6-8/So. (RS).

Outlook: UNH returns 10 letterwinners, and Senulis has undergone successful rehabilitation from a back injury. So the Wildcats should improve on last season's dismal performance. Williams has plenty of potential at the off-guard spot, provided his shooting eye improves, as does Brown. But the Wildcats need somebody to hit the boards besides Brown. Senulis and Ganly could help. Don't be surprised if all five freshmen, especially Peterson, see significant minutes.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Durham, N.H. **Home court:** Whittemore Center (7,200).

Schedules

Boston U.			Hofstra			Drexel			Hartford			Hofstra			New Hampshire		
N17 at St. Peter's	J26 at Drexel	N30 at Hofstra	D3 at Drexel	F1 Drexel	D16 at La Salle	F17 at New Hampshire	J13 Hofstra	N17 Northern Illinois	F17 at Maine	J20 at Northeastern	N21 at Florida Atlantic	J20 at Northeastern	N21 at Florida Atlantic	J26 Northeastern	F17 at New Hampshire	J20 at Northeastern	J26 Northeastern
N21 at Liberty	J28 at Hofstra	D3 at Drexel	D7 Maine	F3 Hofstra	D21 Towson	F24 Hofstra	J15 Hofstra	N25 at Stony Brook	F24 Hofstra	J22 at Boston U.	N30 Delaware	J22 at Boston U.	N30 Delaware	F1 at Towson	F24 at Delaware	J22 at Boston U.	F1 at Towson
N24-25 Auerbach Cl.	F8 Towson	D9 New Hampshire	D16 Rider	F8 at Northeastern	D29-30 Lobo Inv.		J5 at Northeastern	N25 Sacred Heart		J27 Vermont	N25 at Stony Brook	J27 Vermont	N25 Sacred Heart	F9 Vermont	F11 Hartford	J27 Vermont	F9 Vermont
D5 at Harvard	F10 Delaware	D20-21 State Farm	D30 at St. Jos. (Pa.)	F17 Towson	J7 at Boston U.		J13 at Vermont	N28 Manhattan		J29 at Harvard	N30-D1 Phoenix Classic	J29 at Harvard	N28 Manhattan	F15 at Maine	F17 at New Hampshire	J29 at Harvard	F15 at Maine
D9 at Northeastern	F15 at Hartford	D30 at St. Jos. (Pa.)	J4 at Hartford	F22 Vermont	J15 at Hartford		J15 at Hartford	N30-D1 Phoenix Classic		F1 Maine	D16 St. John's	F1 Maine	N30-D1 Phoenix Classic	F17 at New Hampshire	F25 at Drexel	F1 Maine	F17 at New Hampshire
D12 at Maine	F17 at Vermont	D30 at St. Jos. (Pa.)	J6 at Vermont	F24 Hartford	J19 New Hampshire		J19 New Hampshire	N30-D1 Phoenix Classic		F3 New Hampshire	D27-28 ECAC Fest.	F3 New Hampshire	N30-D1 Phoenix Classic	F25 at Drexel		F3 New Hampshire	F25 at Drexel
D14 Massachusetts	F20 Holy Cross	D30 at St. Jos. (Pa.)	J11 Northeastern		J21 Maine		J21 Maine			F9 at Drexel	D30 Towson	F9 at Drexel				F9 at Drexel	
D21 James Madison	F23 New Hampshire	D30 at St. Jos. (Pa.)	J13 Boston U.		J26 Boston U.		J26 Boston U.			F11 at Hofstra	J5 at Boston U.	F11 at Hofstra				F11 at Hofstra	
D28 at Providence	F25 Maine	D30 at St. Jos. (Pa.)	J17 Pennsylvania		J28 Northeastern		J28 Northeastern			F15 Boston U.	J7 at Northeastern	F15 Boston U.				F15 Boston U.	
J2 at New Hampshire			J20 at Towson		F1 at Delaware		F1 at Delaware			F17 Northeastern	J10 Manhattan	F17 Northeastern				F17 Northeastern	
J5 Hofstra			J25 at N. Hampshire		F6 at Pennsylvania		F6 at Pennsylvania			F22 Towson	J13 at Hartford	F22 Towson				F22 Towson	
J11 at Towson			J27 at Maine		F9 Hartford		F9 Hartford			F24 at Delaware	N27 at Troy State	F24 at Delaware				F24 at Delaware	
J13 at Delaware					F11 Vermont		F11 Vermont				N27 at Pr. View A&M						
J20 Vermont																	
J22 Hartford																	

N30 Alaska-Fairbanks D7 at Delaware D9 at Towson D12 Boston U. D17 Norfolk State D23 at Delaware St. D30 Sacred Heart J2 Northeastern J6 at Brown J8 Vermont J10 Hartford J14 New Hampshire J19 at Hofstra J21 at Drexel J25 Towson J27 Delaware	F1 at Hartford F3 at Vermont F11 at N. Hampshire F15 Hofstra F17 Drexel F23 at Northeastern F25 at Boston U. New Hampshire N10 St. Francis Xavier N22 at Army N25 at Dartmouth N29 Stony Brook D2 at Connecticut D7 at Towson D9 at Delaware	D14 Hartford D16 at NC State D28 at Holy Cross D30 at Florida J2 Boston U. J6 Lehigh J10 Vermont J13 at Maine J16 Northeastern J19 Drexel J21 at Hofstra J25 Delaware J28 Towson F1 at Vermont F3 at Hartford F11 Maine	F15 Drexel F17 Hofstra F23 at Boston U. F25 at Northeastern Northeastern N20 at Navy N25 at Miami D1 UNC Greensboro D6 Holy Cross D9 Boston U. D16 at Rhode Island D28-29 Hoosier Cl. J2 at Maine J5 Drexel	J7 Hofstra J11 at Delaware J13 Towson J16 at New Hampshire J20 Hartford J22 Vermont J26 at Hofstra J28 at Drexel J31 at Brown F3 at Boston U. F8 Delaware F10 Towson F15 at Vermont F17 at Hartford F23 Maine F25 New Hampshire	Towson N18 Md.-Balt. County N28 Md. East. Shore D2 Loyola (Md.) D4 at Long Island D7 New Hampshire D9 Maine D12 at Delaware St. D16 Liberty D21 at Drexel D27 at Michigan D30 at Hofstra J4 at Vermont J6 at Hartford J11 Boston U. J13 Northeastern	J20 Delaware J25 at Maine J28 at N. Hampshire F1 Hofstra F3 Drexel F8 at Boston U. F10 at Northeastern F17 at Delaware F22 Hartford F24 Vermont Vermont N11 St. Michael's N17 at Cleveland St. N19 at Lehigh N25 at Northwestern N30 Albany	D7 Yale D10 Hartford D17 Holy Cross D19 at Harvard D21 Rhode Island J4 Towson J6 Delaware J8 at Maine J10 at New Hampshire J13 Drexel J15 Hofstra J20 at Boston U. J22 at Northeastern J27 at Hartford F1 New Hampshire F3 Maine	F9 at Hofstra F11 at Drexel F15 Northeastern F17 Boston U. F22 at Delaware F24 at Towson
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Metro Atlantic

RANK
21

By **MIKE HARRINGTON**
Buffalo News

Predictions

1. Niagara*	7. Siena
2. Iona	8. Marist
3. Manhattan	9. St. Peter's
4. Fairfield	10. Loyola (Md.)
5. Canisius	
6. Rider	*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-MAAC First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Demond Stewart, Niagara	6-3	190	Sr.
G	Daryl Greene, Niagara	6-1	185	Jr.
F	Durrelle Brown, Manhattan	6-7	220	Sr.
F	Mario Porter, Rider	6-6	210	Jr.
C	Darren Fenn, Canisius	6-10	237	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Sean Kennedy, Marist	6-2	170	Jr.
F	Dyree Wilson, Iona	6-5	205	Jr.
F/G	Bruce Seals, Manhattan	6-5	175	So.
F	David Holmes, Manhattan	6-7	225	Fr.
C	Nakiea Miller, Iona	6-9	240	Sr.

Player of the Year

Demond Stewart, G, Niagara

Newcomer of the Year

David Holmes, F, Manhattan

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Scott Knapp, Siena
- Best rebounder:** Darren Fenn, Canisius
- Best playmaker:** Sean Kennedy, Marist
- Best defender:** R.J. Wicks, Rider; Isaiah Stewart, Siena
- Best leaper:** Mario Porter, Rider
- Most versatile:** Dyree Wilson, Iona
- Most flamboyant:** Demond Stewart, Niagara
- Best NBA prospect:** Darren Fenn, Canisius

offensive load. That will fall on Logan and Rivers, who can both play guard or forward. More consistency from Clark beyond the arc would be a big help.

JC recruit Galvanoni should be a big boost from long range as well and will get the bulk of the point guard duties.

Last league title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (2,479).

1 NIAGARA

National Rank: 101

Coach: Joe Mihalich (34-24, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 17-12; MAAC 10-8/T4th.

Starters lost (2): Terry Edwards, F (12.2 ppg, 5.3 rpg); Nate Bernosky, F (8.9 ppg, 6.8 rpg).

Others lost: Luke Dobrich, G (3.7 ppg); Peter Strobl, F (3.3 ppg).

Starters returning (3): Daryl Greene, G, 6-1/Jr. (17.5 ppg, 5 apg, 41.3%, 80 FT%); Demond Stewart, G, 6-3/Sr. (22.9 ppg, 6.7 rpg); Christos Defoudis, F, 6-8/Jr. (5 ppg, 2.9 rpg).

Other returnees: Shey Cohen, F, 6-8/Jr. (2.9 ppg, 2.5 rpg); Luis Villafane, F, 6-10/So.; Rhossi Carron, G, 5-10/So.

Top newcomers: Paul de Wet, F, 6-10/Fr. (RS); James Reaves, F, 6-9/Fr.; Tremell Darden, F/G, 6-3/Fr.; Tomas Kukla, F, 6-6/Fr.; Michael Schmidt, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Texas A&M).

Outlook: No MAAC school has won the conference tourney in successive years since La Salle did it in 1989 and 1990. Defending champ Iona looks good, but history says to look elsewhere. This may be the place. The Purple Eagles have the best backcourt no one has heard of in gunner Stewart and PG Greene, who's equally adept as a playmaker or 3-point threat. The frontcourt rapidly improved last season and is the wild card to the team's season. Cohen and Defoudis showed major improvement and will be joined by freshman Reaves. Swingmen Darden and Texas A&M transfer Schmidt should provide plenty of offense. Mihalich has lost only one home conference game in his two seasons. The first NCAA trip since the 1970 team (led by Calvin Murphy) could be in the offing.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1970.

Site: Niagara, N.Y. **Home court:** Gallagher Center (2,400).

2 IONA

National Rank: 128

Coach: Jeff Ruland (36-25, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tourn. record).

1999-2000 record: 20-11; MAAC 13-5/1st. Lost to Maryland in NCAA Midwest first round.

Starters lost (3): Tariq Kirksay, F (19.2 ppg, 9.3 rpg); Ivo Kresta, C (9.7 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Jason Young, G (5 apg).

Others lost: Terry Sellers, C (3.8 rpg); Jermaine Small, F (2.8 ppg).

Starters returning (2): Dyree Wilson, F, 6-5/Jr. (14.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Phil Grant, G, 6-7/Sr. (10.6 ppg).

Other returnees: Nakiea Miller, F, 6-9/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 7.7 rpg); Maceo Wofford, G, 5-10/So. (4.2 ppg); Leland Norris, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.7 ppg); Leland Matthews, F, 6-5/Sr.

Top newcomers: Charles Henson, F, 6-9/Fr.; Greg Jenkins, C, 6-9/Fr.; Earl Johnson, G, 6-0/Sr. (transfer/Rutgers); Drago Pavlovic, F, 6-7/Fr.; Courtney Fields, G, 6-8/So. (Prop 48); Kenya Caruthers, F/G, 6-6/So. (JC).

Outlook: A dramatic second-half turnaround produced a stunning MAAC title and silenced those who questioned whether former Iona and NBA player Ruland could be a successful head coach. And despite the departures of Kirksay and Young, the Gaels have enough talent to do it again. Miller, the MAAC's premier shot blocker, swingman Wilson and Grant are back. They're joined by a solid recruiting class that's led by Fields. The real key is at point guard: Can Rutgers transfer Earl Johnson quickly form floor chemistry

with his teammates, or will Ruland have to revert back to sophomore Wofford?

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: New Rochelle, N.Y. **Home court:** Mulcahy Center (2,611).

3 MANHATTAN

National Rank: 167

Coach: Bobby Gonzalez (12-15, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 12-15; MAAC: 9-9/6th.

Starters lost (2): Phil "Boo" Lane, G (9.1 ppg, 6.5 apg); Phil Murray, C (2.2 rpg, 2.2 ppg).

Others lost: Badou Kane, C (4.1 rpg); Aeneas Middleton, F/G; Mars Mellich, G, (4.5 ppg).

Starters returning (3): Durrelle Brown, F, 6-7/Sr. (21.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg); Michael Johnson, G, 5-11/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Bruce Seals, F/G, 6-5/So. (14.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg).

Other returnees: Jared Johnson, F, 6-7/So. (8.2 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Noah Coughlin, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (6 ppg); Jerry Clark, G, 6-2/So. (3.3 ppg).

Top newcomers: Jason Benton, F, 6-6/Fr.; Justin Jackette, G, 6-2/So. (transfer/Wm. & Mary); David Holmes, F, 6-7/Fr.; Von Damien Green, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Will Haynes, C/F, 6-8/So. (JC).

Outlook: Maybe it's this year. Maybe it's next. But Gonzalez has the Jaspers poised to get back to where they were in the Fran Fraschilla era and perhaps go even further. This team will run, and it will shoot from outside with Seals and William & Mary transfer Jackette leading the way. It will pound the ball down low to Brown. Throw in the conference's best recruiting class, and you have the makings of a power. The class is led by Holmes, who comes from Oak Hill Academy in Virginia and is considered by many to be the most highly touted MAAC player since Lionel Simmons.

Last league title: 1995.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.

Site: Riverdale, N.Y. **Home court:** Draddy Gym. (3,000).

4 FAIRFIELD

National Rank: 170

Coach: Tim O'Toole (26-30, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-15; MAAC: 11-7/3rd.

Starters lost (2): Darren Phillip, C (15.9 ppg, 14 rpg); Andy Buzbee, F (3.9 ppg, 3.5 ppg).

Others lost: Sunday Eniokukan, C (1.3 rpg).

Starters returning (3): Jermaine Clark, G, 6-5/Jr. (12.1 ppg, 3.2 apg); Sam Spann, F, 6-5/Jr. (6 ppg, 3.3 rpg); Jeremy Logan, F, 6-5/So. (10.4 ppg).

Other returnees: Chris Rivers, F, 6-6/Sr. (37.5 3%, 8.7 ppg); Nick Delfico, F, 6-5/So. (3.7 ppg); Oscar Garcia, F, 6-8/So. (35.7 3%, 5 ppg); Mark Price, G, 6-1/So. (5.9 ppg); Leroy Robertson, G, 6-2/Jr. (42.3 3%, 5.9 ppg).

Top newcomers: Rob Thompson, C/F, 6-10/Fr.; Dan Galvanoni, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Job No. 1 is to fill in the huge gap created by the departure of Phillip, Division I's rebounding leader. But it's not a one-man task. At 6-10, freshman Thompson could face some early pressure to collect some boards. But he won't have to carry much of the

5 CANISIUS

National Rank: 179

Coach: Mike MacDonald (38-46, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-20; MAAC: 8-10/77th.

Starters lost: Dale Sawyers, F (9 ppg, 5.1 rpg).

Others lost (1): Dorian McClure, G (10.6 ppg); Matt Tribul, C (2.3 rpg).

Starters returning (4): Toby Foster, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg);

Darren Fenn, C, 6-10/Sr. (17.6 ppg, 10.5 rpg); Brian Dux, G, 6-2/Sr.

(6.7 ppg, 44.7 3%); Clive Bentick, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 3.2 rpg).

Other returnees: Andrew Bush, C, 6-8/Jr. (4.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg); Hodari

Mallory, G, 6-3/Sr. (5 ppg); Damon Young, G, 6-2/Jr.

Top newcomers: Jon Ferris, F, 6-7/Fr.; DeWitt Doss, G, 5-10/Fr.;

Richard Hampton, F, 6-7/Fr.; Tory Jefferson, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Rhode

Island); Jay Keys, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Bowling Green).

Outlook: Here's your dark horse. The Griffs have the best pure center in the conference in Fenn. They should be healthy after an injury

riddled 10-20 disaster. The backcourt is solid with Dux at point and

Bentick. Rhode Island transfer Jefferson could provide instant

offense and help deflect all the attention defenses have been giving

to Fenn. But how much will the bench give? And how much pressure

will the Griffs feel in the postseason? (They've lost three

straight MAAC quarterfinals under MacDonald.) The Griffs will have

to show more maturity away from home: They were 8-3 last season

in Buffalo, 2-17 on the road or at neutral sites.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Buffalo, N.Y. Home court: Koessler Athletic Center (1,800).

6 RIDER

National Rank: 190

Coach: Don Harnum (3 years, 46-40).

1999-2000 record: 16-14; MAAC: 8-10/77th.

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (5): Mario Porter, F, 6-6/Jr. (17.6 ppg, 6.6 rpg);

Michael Crawford, G, 6-0/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 45.3 3%); Jon McClark, F, 6-

7/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg); R.J. Wicks, G, 6-4 Jr. (5.6 ppg, 42.6 3%);

Mike Wilson, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.3 ppg).

Other returnees: Mike Scott, G, 6-4/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Junior

Curtis, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.1 ppg); Alex Iseghohi, F, 6-5/Sr.; Robert Reed,

C/F, 6-10/Sr. (2.9 rpg); Brandon Wahlmann, F, 6-9/Sr.; Maurice

Bailey, G, 6-0/Sr.

Top newcomers: Lataiva Escho, F, 6-6/Fr.; Laurence Young, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: The Broncs were expected to be a basement-level club last

year but put together 16 wins. They won't sneak up on anyone now

but could still push their way into the league's upper echelon. Porter

burst into the MAAC's elite at forward and should battle for all-con-

ference honors. But he needs help. The backcourt, led by Wilson and

Crawford, is a strength.

Last league title: 1994 (Northeast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Lawrenceville, N.J. Home court: Alumni Gymnasium (1,650).

7 SIENA

National Rank: 197

Coach: Louis Orr (first year).

1999-2000 record: 24-9; MAAC: 15-3/1st.

Starters lost (4): Marcus Faison, G (17.3 ppg, 6 rpg, 4.3 3.4 3%); Jim

Cantamessa, F (11.6 ppg, 46.1 3%); Dave Deters, C (5.8 ppg); Corey

Osinski, F (13.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg).

Others lost: Micah Ogburn, G.

Starters returning: Isaiah Stewart, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 3.2 rpg).

Other returnees: Scott Knapp, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.2 ppg); Dwayne

Archbold, G, 6-5/Jr. (7.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Dale Taylor, C, 6-9/Jr.; James

Clinton, F, 6-9/Jr.; Mike Buhrman, F, 6-9/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg).

Top newcomers: J.J. Harvey, G, 6-3/Fr.; Justin Miller, F, 6-9/Fr.;

Austin Andrews, F, 6-8/Fr.; Andy Cavo, F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/New

Hampshire).

Outlook: Coach Paul Hewitt is gone to Georgia Tech. Four seniors

are gone. The 48 wins over the past two years are going to quickly

become memories. New coach Orr won't be able to run and gun

nearly as much as his predecessor. Knapp and Stewart return in the

backcourt, but there are big questions up front. New Hampshire

transfer Cavo will be asked to contribute immediately. So will

promising freshman Miller.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Albany, N.Y. Home court: Pepsi Arena (15,500).

8 MARIST

National Rank: 200

Coach: Dave Magarity (198-199, 14 years; 258-275 overall, 19

years).

1999-2000 record: 14-14; MAAC: 10-8/4th.

Starters lost (2): Tom Kenney, C (14.2 ppg, 7.6 rpg); Joe McCurdy, F

(8.4 ppg, 3.3 rpg).

Others lost: Tomasz Ciebleak, F/C (8.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg); Jason

Hastings, F (3.3 rpg).

Starters returning (3): Sean Kennedy, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.7 ppg, 5.8 rpg);

Rick Smith, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Drew Samuels, F, 6-5/Sr.

(9.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg).

Other returnees: Blake Sonne, G, 6-1/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 47.1 3%);

Donald Vale, F, 6-4/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 3.2 rpg); Nick Eppheimer, G, 6-7/Sr.

Top newcomers: Dennis Young, F, 6-8/Fr.; Steve Castleberry, C, 6-

11/Fr.; Matt Tullis, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Smith and Kennedy form one of the conference's most

dependable backcourt combinations. They're going to have to score

more than in the past, however, with no frontcourt returnees over 6-

6. Sonne was a find from the outside last year and could help again.

Newcomers Tullis and Young need to contribute right away. Samuels

and Vale have been role players in the frontcourt and better show

they're ready to be everyday contributors.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Home court: McCann Center (3,944).

9 ST. PETER'S

National Rank: 306

Coach: Bob Leckie (first year).

1999-2000 record: 5-23; MAAC: 2-16/10th.

Starters lost (2): Ricky Belling, G (15.1 ppg); Jermaine Johnson, C

(45 blocks, 7.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg).

Others lost: Damian Spencer, F/G (5 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Andrew

Wisniewski, G; Ryan Johnson, F.

Starters returning (3): Kamaal McQueen, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 5

pgg); Keith Sellers, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Rodney Rodgers, F,

6-8/Sr. (8 ppg, 6.5 rpg).

Other returnees: Kalief Allen, G (8.5 ppg); Antoine Orr, G, 5-9/Sr.

Top newcomers: Amir Ali, C, 6-10/Fr.; Corey Hinnant, G, 6-1/Fr.; Regis

Devonish, F/G, 6-5/Fr.; Marvin Benjamin, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Daryl Boykins,

G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: New coach Leckie will have some beef up front in McQueen,

Rodgers and Sellers. But it won't be enough to combat the departure

of the school's all-time scoring leader, Belling. The Peacocks were

saddled with injuries last season, and their offense struggled mightily

as a result. There simply isn't enough talent to overcome a lack of

depth. Leckie's days as a winning coach (at Brooklyn's Bishop

Loughlin Memorial High) won't continue this season.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Jersey City, N.J. Home court: Yanitelli Center (3,200).

10 LOYOLA (MD.)

National Rank: 309

Coach: Scott Hicks (first year; 131-96 overall, 8 years).

1999-2000 record: 7-21; MAAC: 4-14/9th.

Starters lost (2): Blanchard Hurd, F (14.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg); Anthony

Walker, G (7.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Damien Jenifer, G, 6-0/Jr. (10.1 ppg, 4.3

apg); Brian Carroll, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 6.9 rpg); Donovan Thomas, F,

6-7/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg).

Other returnees: Delonnie Southall, F, 6-8/Sr.; Ronnie Parmer, C, 6-

10/Sr.; Brant Mack, G, 6-1/Sr.; Apostolis Nasiou, F, 6-7/Sr.

Top newcomers: Dan Anderson, G, 6-0/Fr.; Greg McBain, F, 6-9/Fr.;

John Reimold, F/G, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: The most unenviable coaching job in the MAAC goes to

Hicks, who moved from Albany, a program in its first year in D-I, to

Loyola, where lacrosse is king and basketball is an afterthought.

The Greyhounds are a mess. Limited talent. Limited recruits. Little

fan support. Jenifer has been wildly inconsistent in the backcourt,

and the frontcourt has usually underachieved. Forward Thomas

had a nice freshman year last season, but it's unlikely he can be a

go-to guy. Like Canisius, this team has to find some way to do

something—anything—on the road, where it was 0-13 last year.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Baltimore. Home court: Reitz Arena (3,000).

Schedules

Canisius	D7 at Manhattan	D13 Hofstra	J15 Niagara	J25 at Siena	F2 Iona	F10 Iona	F18 Fairfield	Siena
N20 Buffalo	D10 Loyola	D20-22 San Juan S.O.	J17 at St. Peter's	J28 Marist	F4 at Fairfield	F16 Loyola	F23 at Iona	N24-26 Hawaii
N24-25 Florida Int'l Trn.	D12 at St. Francis	D28 Niagara	J19 at Marist	J30 at Fairfield	F8 at Niagara	F18 Manhattan	F25 St. Peter's	Shootout
N30 at Buffalo	D22 at Connecticut	J3 Morgan State	J25 at Iona	F2 Niagara	F10 at Canisius	F21 Canisius	ST. Peter's	D2 Cleveland State
D4 Loyola (IL)	D28 at N. Illinois	J5 at Fairfield	J27 Canisius	F4 Siena	F15 Rider	F24 at Siena	N17 Boston University	D5 at Hartford
D7 Niagara	D30 at DePaul	J8 at Loyola	F3 at Rider	F9 Rider	F17 St. Peter's	N19 at Boston College	N25 Lafayette	D7 St. Peter's
D10 at Rider	J5 Iona	J10 at Rider	F6 St. Peter's	F11 Loyola	F21 at Siena	N27 at Sacred Heart	N28 at Seton Hall	D10 at Marist
D16 at Cornell	J10 Niagara	J13 Canisius	F8 at Siena	F16 at Canisius	F24 Canisius	N21 Monmouth	D3 NC-Greensboro	D12 at St. Bonaventure
D19 at Notre Dame	J12 Rider	J15 at Siena	F11 at Manhattan	F18 at Niagara	N17 at Buffalo	N29 at Rutgers	D7 at Siena	D23 Fordham
D30 St. Bonaventure	J15 at Marist	J19 Manhattan	F13 Siena	F22 at Loyola	N21 Albany	D2 Lafayette	D9 Manhattan	D28 at Rhode Island
J3 St. Peter's	J18 at Niagara	J25 Loyola	F16 at Niagara	F25 Iona	N25 at St. John's	D5 at Bucknell	D13 at Northwestern	J8 at Dayton
J6 Bucknell	J20 George Mason	F2 at Marist	F18 at Canisius	Marist	N27 St. Francis (PA)	D8 at Loyola (Md.)	D16 at Monmouth	J7 at Niagara
J9 Siena	J25 at Canisius	F4 St. Peter's	F22 Manhattan	N25 at Pittsburgh	D2 Nova Scotia Classic	D10 Canisius	D23 St. Francis (NY)	J9 at Canisius
J13 at Iona	J28 at Siena	F8 at Canisius	F25 Fairfield	N28 at Boston College	D4 St. Bonaventure	D16 at Delaware	D27 at St. Joseph's	J13 Rice
J15 at Manhattan	J30 Manhattan	F10 at Niagara	Manhattan	D12 at Richmond	D7 at Canisius	D30 Fairleigh	J3 at Canisius	J19 at St. Peter's
J18 Rider	F2 Canisius	F15 at St. Peter's	N21 Mt. Saint Mary's	D6 at Iona	D9 Memorial Classic	Dickinson	J5 at Niagara	J21 Canisius
J21 at Siena	F4 Marist	F18 Siena	N28 at Hartford	D10 Siena	D21 at Colgate	J3 Stony Brook	J9 Marist	J25 Manhattan
J25 Fairfield	F10 at St. Peter's	F20 Fairfield	D1 at Holy Cross	D12 at Richmond	D28 at Iona	J7 Manhattan	J12 at Manhattan	J28 Fairfield
J27 at Loyola	F15 Siena	F23 Rider	D5 Fordham	D16 Bowling Green	D30 at Syracuse	J10 Iona	J14 Rider	F4 at Manhattan
J29 at St. Peter's	F18 at Rider	F25 at Manhattan	D7 Fairfield	D28 at Central Florida	J5 St. Peter's	J12 at Fairfield	J17 Loyola	F8 Loyola (Md.)
F2 at Fairfield	F20 at Iona	Loyola (MD)	D21 at St. John's	D30 Army	J7 Siena	J14 at St. Peter's	J19 Siena	F11 Rider
F8 Iona	F23 St. Peter's	N18-20 Battle of Balt.	D27-30 Rainbow	J3 Lafayette	J10 at Fairfield	J18 at Canisius	J25 Niagara	F13 at Loyola (Md.)
F10 Marist	F25 at Loyola	N22 at Penn State	Classic	J6 at Loyola	J13 at Marist	J20 at Niagara	J29 Canisius	F15 at Fairfield
F16 Manhattan	Iona	N25 at American	J3 Long Island	J9 at St. Peter's	J15 at Loyola	J24 Marist	F4 at Iona	F18 at Iona
F18 Loyola	N18 at UMass	N27 Delaware	J7 at Rider	J13 Niagara	J18 Fairfield	J30 Siena	F6 at Loyola	F21 Marist
F21 at Niagara	N21 at Coppin State	D2 at Towson	J10 at Hofstra	J15 Fairfield	J25 at St. Peter's	F3 Loyola (Md.)	F10 Fairfield	F24 Niagara
F24 at Marist	N23 at Fordham	D8 Rider	J12 St. Peter's	J19 Loyola	J27 at Rider	F11 at Siena	F15 Iona	
Fairfield	N28 St. Francis (NY)	D10 at Fairfield	J15 Canisius	J21 Manhattan	F2 at Manhattan	F15 at Marist		
N14-24 Preseason NIT	D2 Bucknell	D16 Mount St. Mary's	J19 at Iona	J24 at Rider				
N18 at Rhode Island	D6 Marist	J6 Marist	J21 at Marist	J28 at Manhattan				
D1-2 Carrier Classic	D9 Memorial Classic	J8 Iona						

Big Sky

RANK
22

1 CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE National Rank: 121

Coach: Bobby Braswell (63-53, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 20-10. Big Sky: 10-6/T4th.

Key players: Brian Heinle, C, 6-9/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 45.4 FG%, 37.0 3%); Markus Carr, PG, 6-1/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 38.7 3%, 6.9 apg, 2.1 spg); Carl Holmes, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.4 ppg, 36.7 3%, 1.2 spg); Jeff Parris, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 57.9 FG%, 1.5 spg).

Outlook: Northridge will be leaving the conference at the end of the year, and it looks like the Matadors will grab a championship trophy on their way out. Braswell returns four starters from a team that lost to Northern Arizona in the final of the Big Sky Tournament. The best of the bunch is Heinle, a proficient scorer and tenacious rebounder and the odds-on favorite to capture the Big Sky's Player of the Year award. Starting point Carr also is back.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Northridge, Calif. **Home court:** The Matadome (1,600).

2 MONTANA STATE National Rank: 148

Coach: Mick Durham (156-131, 10 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 12-17. Big Sky: 4-12/7th.

Key players: John Lazosky, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 4.7 FG%, 79.1 FT%); Justin Brown, G, 6-4/Jr. (14.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 47.2 FG%, 86.7 FT%, 37.3 3%, 1.1 spg); Aaron Rich, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 50.3 FG%, 82.4 FT%, 1.1 spg). **Outlook:** Durham returns four starters and five of his top six scorers from last season, which makes MSU the most likely candidate to derail Northridge. Brown is a versatile perimeter player and Lazosky provides muscle and a big body inside. Durham's biggest problem will be finding a replacement for point guard Jeff Riggs, who averaged 11.9 points and 5.1 assists as a senior last season.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Bozeman, Mont. **Home court:** Worthington Arena (7,250).

3 WEBER STATE National Rank: 175

Coach: Joe Cravens (18-10, 1 year; 73-62 overall, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 18-10. Big Sky: 10-6/T4th.

Key players: Stephan Bachmann, C, 6-10/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 59.6 FG%, 50.0 3%); Ivan Gatto, F, 6-10/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 37.7 3%).

Outlook: The Wildcats are tough to figure. They had the two best players in the league in Harold Arceneaux and Eddie Gill last season but finished 10-6 in the Big Sky and brought down some big-time pressure on Cravens. Cravens won't have as much pure talent this year, but the team's chemistry should be much improved. Look for Bachmann, from Switzerland, and Gatto, from Italy (both stand 6-10 and are former soccer players) to improve their offensive numbers from last year—especially if newcomer point guard Jermaine Boyette, a transfer from Salt Lake City CC, is as good as billed.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Ogden, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Events Center (12,000).

4 MONTANA National Rank: 188

Coach: Don Holst (30-25, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 17-11. Big Sky: 12-4/T1st.

Key players: Jared Buckmaster, F, 6-8/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 46.8 FG%, 46.6 3%); Shane Christensen, G, 6-1/Jr. (10.5 ppg, 4.9 apg, 79.2 FT%, 37.1 3%, 1.4 spg).

Outlook: The Grizzlies made some huge strides under Holst last winter by winning 17 games and a share of the regular-season title. But all-league forward Matt Williams and shooting guard Mike Warhank are no longer around, which means Holst has some holes to fill. Fortunately, there is experience at the point guard spot, where Christensen returns along with senior Kyle Keyes, who missed the 1999-2000 season with a knee injury. Toss in the experience of Buckmaster on the front line and the return of a couple key reserves and it seems unlikely the Grizzlies will tumble out of the first division.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Missoula, Mont. **Home court:** Adams Center (7,500).

5 NORTHERN ARIZONA National Rank: 198

Coach: Mike Adras (20-11, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 20-11. Big Sky: 11-5/3rd. (Lost to St. John's in NCAA West first round.)

Key players: Adam Lopez, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 83.8 FT%, 35.7 3%, 3.9 apg, 1 spg); Corey Schwab, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 47.3 FG%, 82.8 FT%, 43.3 3%).

Outlook: A horrible start to the conference season cost talent-heavy NAU the regular-season Big Sky title last winter, but the team atoned by winning the league tournament and an automatic berth in the NAAs. The graduation losses were immense, however, which means Adras must do more than simply reload. Schwab, who started 22 games as a junior, has the most experience on the team. But the key to the season will probably be Lopez's play.

Last league title: 1998.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Flagstaff, Ariz. **Home court:** Walkup Skydome (7,000).

6 EASTERN WASHINGTON National Rank: 210

Coach: Ray Giacoletti (first year; 48-33 overall, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-12. Big Sky: 12-4/T1st.

Key players: Jamal Jones, G, 6-0/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 83.7 FT%, 3.1 apg, 1.2 spg); Aaron Olson, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 46.7 FG%, 78.6 FT%, 44 3%); Chris White, F, 6-9/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 56.3 FG%, 1.3 bpg).

Outlook: The Eagles produced some shock waves last winter by earning a share of their first regular-season Big Sky title. Their success led to the departure of coach Steve Aggers, and now it is up to Giacoletti to continue moving the program in a positive direction. Giacoletti, who came from North Dakota State, inherits a team with some potential. Three starters return, but replacing point guard Deon Williams—a two-time all-Big Sky pick—leading scorer Ryan Hansen and tough-guy forward Will Levy will be difficult. The return of senior Jason Humbert (6-10, 245), who missed most of the past two seasons, will help.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Cheney, Wash. **Home court:** Reese Court (6,000).

7 PORTLAND STATE National Rank: 242

Coach: Joel Sobotka (32-25, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-14. Big Sky: 7-9/6th.

Key players: Anthony Lackey, F, 6-5/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 53.4 FG%, 41.2 3%, 1.1 spg); Dony Wilcher, G, 5-10/Sr. (transfer/San Francisco); Jabbar Washington, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Cal Poly).

Outlook: The team finished sixth in the Big Sky last year and barely qualified for the league playoffs. This year, it

By STEVE BERGUM

Spokane Spokesman-Review

All-Big Sky

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Markus Carr, CS Northridge	6-1	180	Jr.
G	Justin Brown, Montana State	6-4	175	Jr.
F	Chris White, Eastern Washington	6-9	220	Sr.
C	Brian Heinle, CS Northridge	6-9	225	Sr.
F	Jeff Parris, CS Northridge	6-5	223	Sr.

Player of the Year

Brian Heinle, C, Cal State Northridge

Newcomer of the Year

Jermaine Boyette, PG, Weber State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jared Buckmaster, Montana

Best rebounder: Brian Heinle, Cal State Northridge

Best playmaker: Markus Carr, Cal State Northridge

Best defender: Markus Carr, Cal State Northridge

Best leaper: Ryan Slider, Montana

Most versatile: Jeff Parris, Cal State Northridge

Most flamboyant: Kareem Hunter, Eastern Washington

Best NBA prospect: Brian Heinle, Cal State Northridge

looks like the Vikings might not make it that far, unless Sobotka's recruiting class is better than most think. Otherwise, most of PSU's fortunes will rest on the back of the versatile Lackey.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Portland, Ore. **Home courts:** The Rose Garden (19,980); Memorial Coliseum (12,000); Stott Center (1,775).

8 SACRAMENTO STATE National Rank: 256

Coach: Jerome Jenkins (first year).

1999-2000 record: 9-18. Big Sky: 3-13/T8th.

Key players: Rame Batta, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 2.1 spg); Ricky Glenn, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 50 FG%); Pablo Gonzalez, G, 6-4/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 1.9 spg); Rene Jacques, G, 6-1/Jr. (6.4 ppg, 75.6 FT%).

Outlook: On paper, the Hornets appear capable of a much higher finish. Four starters return from a team that probably should have won more than nine games last year. But the sudden resignation of Tom Abatemarco after last season has thrust the coaching reins into the hands of Jenkins, an untested former assistant who is in only his second season at Sac State. It's hard to imagine Jenkins can coax much more out of this team than Abatemarco did last year.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Sacramento, Calif. **Home court:** Memorial Auditorium (2,603).

9 IDAHO STATE National Rank: 263

Coach: Doug Oliver (14-39, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 8-19. Big Sky: 3-13/T8th.

Key players: Tim Erickson, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 78.0 FT%, 36.3 3%); J.T. Nelson, C, 6-10/Jr. (49.1 FG%); Doug Silva, C, 6-11/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 48.2 FG%).

Outlook: Oliver must be asking himself if the team has hit rock bottom yet. The answer: Probably not. The team won only three league games last season and lost four of its top five scorers. The only bright spot would seem to be the return of Silva.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Pocatello, Idaho. **Home court:** Holt Arena (8,000).

Schedules

Cal State Northridge N19 Howard N21 at UCLA N25 at UNLV N28 Cal Poly Pomona D1-2 Coca Cola Classic D5 at USC D7 Wyoming D18 at James Madison D21 UAB* D22 Hawaii* D23 Georgia State* D28 Vanguard (Calif.) J4 at Weber State J6 at Sacramento State J11 at Northern Arizona J13 Idaho State J18 Portland State J20 E. Washington J25 at Montana State J27 at Montana J31 Sacramento State F1 Weber State F8 at Idaho State F17 Northern Arizona F22 Montana F24 Montana State M1 at E. Washington M3 at Portland State *Honolulu.	Eastern Washington N17 Gonzaga N21 Evergreen State N24-25 Spartan Classic D2 San Jose State D9 Cascade College D14 at Cal Poly SLO D16 at Kansas State D20 at Oregon State D30 at Idaho J4 at Montana State J6 at Montana J11 Idaho State J13 Portland State J18 at Northern Arizona J20 at CS Northridge J24 CS Sacramento J27 Weber State F1 Montana State F3 Montana F8 at Weber State F16 at Portland State F22 at Idaho State F24 at CS Sacramento M1 CS Northridge M3 Northern Arizona Idaho State N17 at Utah N25 at Southern Utah N29 Utah State D2 Loyola Marymount D6 Boise State	D15 Montana Tech D18-19 Stanford Invit. D28 Westminster D30 Southern Utah J5 at Santa Clara J11 at E. Washington J13 at CS Northridge J18 Montana J20 Montana State J25 at Portland State J27 at Weber State F1 at Northern Arizona F3 at CS Sacramento F8 CS Northridge F10 Northern Arizona F16 at Montana F17 at Montana State F22 Eastern Washington F24 Portland State M1 Weber State M3 Sacramento State Montana N22 Northern Iowa N25 at Nevada N27 Pacific D2 SE Louisiana D6 Gonzaga D9 Southern Utah D12 at Washington St. D16 Idaho D18 Whitman D30 at Baylor J4 Portland State	J6 Eastern Washington J13 at Montana State J18 at Idaho State J20 at Weber State J25 Northern Arizona J27 CS Northridge F1 at Portland State F3 at E. Washington F8 at CS Sacramento F10 Montana State F15 Weber State F16 Idaho State F22 at CS Northridge F24 at Northern Arizona M1 at CS Sacramento Montana State N18 Western Illinois N20 at Nevada N24-26 Big Island Invit. D3 Wyoming D6 at Western Illinois D9 at Mississippi State D11 Nevada D16 Idaho D23 at Idaho D29 Holiday Stores Cl. J4 Eastern Washington J6 Portland State J13 Montana J18 at Weber State J20 at Idaho State J25 CS Northridge J27 Northern Arizona	F1 at Eastern Wash. F3 at Portland State F7 at CS Sacramento F10 at Montana F15 CS Sacramento F17 Idaho State F22 at Northern Arizona F24 at CS Northridge M3 Weber State Northern Arizona N17 at UNLV N21 Cascade College N25 Colgate N28 at Air Force D2 at Cal Poly D8-9 Boilermaker Invit. D18 Oregon D21 Lipscomb D28 TBA D30 at CS Fullerton J4 at CS Sacramento J6 at Weber State J11 CS Northridge J13 CS Sacramento J18 Eastern Washington J20 Portland State J25 at Montana J27 at Montana State F1 Idaho State F3 Weber State F10 at Idaho State F17 at CS Northridge	F22 Montana State F24 Montana M1 at Portland State M3 at E. Washington Portland State N18 at Washington N20 at Washington State N25 at Oregon N30 Boise State D3 Nevada D9 at Portland D13 at San Diego D16 at Loy. Marymount D20 at Rice D23 at Texas A&M-C.C. D30 Williamette J4 at Montana J6 at Montana State J10 Weber State J13 at E. Washington J18 at CS Northridge J20 at Northern Arizona J26 Sacramento State J27 Idaho State F1 Montana F3 Montana State F8 at Weber State F10 E. Washington F22 at Sacramento St. F24 at Idaho State M1 Northern Arizona M3 CS Northridge	Sacramento State N17 Bethany College N22 St. Mary's N28 at Colorado State D2 at San Diego State D6 at Southern Utah D9 Loyola Marymount D16 at Portland D20 San Jose State D23 at Washington St. D30 Menlo College J4 Northern Arizona J6 CS Northridge J11 Weber State J13 at Northern Arizona J19 UC Riverside J24 at E. Washington J26 at Portland State J31 at CS Northridge F3 Idaho State F7 Montana State F8 Montana F15 at Montana State F17 at Weber State F22 Portland State F24 Eastern Washington M1 at Montana M3 at Idaho State	Weber State N17 UC Riverside N20 at Southern Utah N22 Morris Brown D1-2 First Merchants Cl. D5 at UC Riverside D9 at Utah D16 Boise State D23 at Utah State D28 Brigham Young J4 CS Northridge J6 Northern Arizona J9 at Portland State J11 at Sacramento St. J18 Montana State J20 Montana J25 Idaho State J27 at E. Washington F1 at CS Northridge F3 at Northern Arizona F8 Eastern Washington F10 Portland State F15 at Montana F17 Sacramento State F24 at Morris Brown M1 at Idaho State M3 at Montana State
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Southland

RANK 23

1 McNEESE STATE

National Rank: 115

Coach: Ron Everhart (70-95, 6 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-21. Southland: 5-13/T9th.

Key players: Demond Mallet, G, 6-1, Sr. (17.6 ppg in '98-99); G Tierre Brown, G, 6-2, Sr. (22 ppg); Chauncey Bryant, G, 5-8, Jr. (6.1 ppg, 5.0 apg); Fred Gentry, F, 6-6, Sr. (12.3 ppg, 8.5 rpg); Jason Coleman, F, 6-4, So. (10.4 ppg); Jaeson Maravich, G, 6-5, Jr. (JC); Ben Perkins, F, 6-6, Jr. (JC); Ira Miller, F, 6-6, Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Injuries destroyed last season, but a return to health by Mallet, who was lost in the second game last season, should help the Cowboys rebound. In all, eight lettermen are back. Gentry, who nearly averaged a double-double last season, is one of the SLC's most underrated big men. One interesting addition is Jaeson Maravich, son of Hall of Famer Pete Maravich. Everhart is calling this the deepest team he's had. This is a squad with huge scoring potential, size and a versatile bench.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Lake Charles, La. **Home court:** Burton Coliseum. (8,000).

2 NORTHWESTERN STATE

National Rank: 157

Coach: Mike McConathy (17-12, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 17-12. Southland: 11-7/T4th.

Key players: Alann Polk, G, 6-3, Sr. (9.1 ppg); Chris Thompson, F, 6-6, Sr. (8.9 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.3 bpg); D'Or Fisher, C, 6-11, Fr.; Michael Byars-Dawson, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/Miami).

Outlook: Look for continued improvement under McConathy. Four starters and eight lettermen return to join a strong recruiting class. Thompson provides the defensive muscle inside, and the additions of guard

Byars-Dawson and forward Chris Lynch, a transfer from Long Beach State, should give the Demons an instant inside-outside offensive tandem.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Natchitoches, La. **Home court:** Prather Coliseum. (3,900).

3 TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO

National Rank: 164

Coach: Tim Carter (72-66, 5 years; 83-82 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-13. Southland: 12-6/3rd.

Key players: Devin Brown, G, 6-4/Jr. (18.4 ppg, 6.4 rpg); McEverett Powers, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 6.8 rpg); Mahcoe "Punchie" Parker, C, 6-8/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 6.5 rpg); Jon Havens, G, 6-1/So. (5.9 ppg); Tyrone Terry, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: UTSA should be near the top of the league again with the return of eight lettermen, including potent All-SLC guard Brown. Carter says his recruiting class is the best he's ever had. Robert Bell, a transfer from Tulsa, is the second-highest prep scorer in San Antonio high school history, behind Brown. Terry, Mr. Basketball in North Dakota last year, will be a candidate to fill the void at point.

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: San Antonio. **Home court:** UTSA Conv. Center (5,100)

4 NICHOLLS STATE

National Rank: 184

Coach: Rickey Broussard (134-144, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 11-17. Southland: 8-10/T6th.

Key players: Arthur Haralson, F, 6-5/Sr. (15.6 ppg, 5.3

By PAUL LETLOW

Monroe (La.) News-Star

All-Southland

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tierre Brown, McNeese State	6-2	189	Sr.
G	Demond Mallet, McNeese State	6-1	182	Sr.
G	Devin Brown, Texas-San Antonio	6-4	205	Jr.
F/G	Jeremy Burkhalter, Sam Houston	6-4	194	Sr.
C	Wojciech Myrda, La.-Monroe	7-1	230	Jr.

Player of the Year

Devin Brown, F, Texas-San Antonio

Newcomer of the Year

Michael Byars-Dawson, G, Northwestern St.

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Demond Mallet, McNeese State
Best rebounder: McEverett Powers, Texas-San Antonio
Best playmaker: Chauncey Bryant, McNeese State
Best defender: Wojciech Myrda, Louisiana-Monroe
Best leaper: Adrian Johnson, McNeese State
Most versatile: Devin Brown, Texas-San Antonio
Most flamboyant: Ron Barks, Stephen F. Austin
Best NBA prospect: Wojciech Myrda, Louisiana-Monroe

rpg); Terence McCutcheon, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.0 ppg); Marlon Green, G, 6-5/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Sean Hughley, PG, 5-10/So. (JC); Chris Bacon, F, 6-9/Sr. (transfer/Nevada).

Outlook: Haralson was the SLC's Newcomer of the Year last season and should be one of the top players this year. Hughley is most likely to fill a need at point. Bacon, a flamboyant player, brings some height and versatility. The Colonels were the No. 8 seed in the eight-team conference tournament last season. They should make a move up the standings in 2000-01.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Thibodaux, La. **Home court:** Stoper Gym (3,800).

5 LOUISIANA-MONROE

National Rank: 191

Coach: Mike Vining (339-219, 19 years; 0-7 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-9. Southland: 13-5/2nd.

Key players: Brian Lubeck, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 6 rpg); Wojciech Myrda, C, 7-1/Jr. (9 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 5.1 bpg); Charles Sanders, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Kevin Paige, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Mark Keith, G, F, 6-4/Fr.; Brandon Jones, PG, 6-1, Fr. **Outlook:** This year's squad will barely resemble what was the league's most talented team last season. Myrda, ULM's key returnee, is known mostly for his defense, and the Indians need him to become more assertive on offense. Look for Lubeck to post much better offensive numbers as well. Paige brings bulk and rebounding prowess, while Sanders adds athleticism from the wing. Point guard has been a black hole of inconsistency for years. A trip to the conference tournament isn't out of the question for the Indians if this team's chemistry improves. **Last league title:** 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Monroe, La. **Home court:** Ewing Coliseum (8,000).

6 SAM HOUSTON STATE

National Rank: 194

Coach: Bob Marlin (32-23, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 22-7. Southland: 15-3/1st.

Key players: Jeremy Burkhalter, F/G, 6-4/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Seneca Wall, F, 6-4/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Eddy Barlow, G, 6-0/Sr.; Vince Brown, P, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Demetris Sims, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Rodrick Winters, F, 6-5/Fr. **Outlook:** Sam Houston lost four players to graduation, but with Burkhalter and Wall on the roster, it should remain near the top of the league. Burkhalter led Sam Houston in scoring, and Wall has been one of the SLC's most versatile performers. Brown and Derrick Douglas will be counted on to step up immediately. Barlow, who appeared in 29 games as a freshman, could start at point guard and replace departed star Bone Watson. **Last league title:** 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Huntsville, Texas. **Home court:** Johnson Coliseum (5,600).

7 LAMAR

National Rank: 202

Coach: Mike Deane (15-16, 1 year; 305-173 16 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-16. Southland: 8-10/16th.

Key players: Kenyon Spears, G, 6-3, Sr. (10.2 ppg, 3.2 apg, 4.3 rpg); Lewis Arline, F, 6-6, So. (7.5 ppg., 6.3 rpg); Ron Austin, G, 6-3, So. (4.6 ppg).

Outlook: Spears and Arline are the only starters back to try for a second straight NCAA berth. Lamar is expecting reinforcements from a recruiting class that was ranked 67th in the nation by one analyst. The freshman class includes forward Ben Jacobson, a 6-7 forward from Nebraska who averaged 20.1 points and 10.2 rebounds as a senior, and 6-3 guard Tyler Hackstadt, who should see time in the backcourt rotation.

Last league title: 1984.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Beaumont, Texas. **Home court:** Montagne Center (10,080).

8 SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

National Rank: 209

Coach: Billy Kennedy (10-17, 1 year; 34-51, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-17. Southland: 5-13/19th.

Key players: Marcus Kemp, G, 6-1, Sr. (13.3 ppg, 4.7 rpg); Jason Elloie, F, 6-5, Jr. (11.6 ppg); Alfredo Jackson, F, 6-4, Sr. (10.1, 5.5 rpg); Reggie Patterson, F, 6-6, Sr. (4.3 ppg); Jaron Singletary, G, 6-1, Sr. (7.4 ppg).

Outlook: Despite finishing higher than ninth only once since joining the league in 1997-98, Southeastern Louisiana is ready to make a serious move upward, with four returning starters and several key newcomers. Kennedy's optimism is fueled by the fact that he returns 90 percent of his scoring and 77 percent of his rebounding from a year ago. Tough defense has become the team's trademark under Kennedy, and that shouldn't change. Offensively, Kemp led the Lions in scoring and was an honorable mention All-SLC selection. Starting point guard Lee Carney will be challenged by Jamaal Wolfe, a senior who sat out last season after transferring from LSU. **Last league title:** None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Hammond, La. **Home court:** University Center (7,500).

9 TEXAS-ARLINGTON

National Rank: 223

Coach: Eddie McCarter (94-125, 9 years).

1999-2000 record: 15-12. Southland: 11-7/14th.

Key players: Jabari Johnson, G, 6-2, Sr. (12.8 ppg); Steven Barber, G, 5-10, Jr. (10 ppg); Mack Callier, F, 6-5, So. (7.3 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Justin Pendleton, F, 6-7, Jr. (JC); Milos Nikolic, F, 6-8, Fr.; Achille Nagounou, F, 6-8, Fr.

Outlook: Last season the Mavericks had one player taller

than 6-5. This year, they have eight. The height infusion includes high school teammates Nikolic and Nagounou, who helped lead Brookshire (Fla.) High School to a state championship. UTA lost leading scorer Keith Greene and bruising forward Bill Washington, leaving two holes in the lineup. But the returning starters include Johnson, who made 66 3-pointers.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Arlington, Texas. **Home court:** Texas Hall (4,200).

10 SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE

National Rank: 266

Coach: Dennis Nutt (first year).

1999-2000 record: 12-17. Southland: 8-10/16th.

Key players: Brendon Polyblank, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 4 rpg); Manny Flores, G, 6-0/Sr. (6 ppg, 3.1 apg); C Melih Yavsaner, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC); Slaven Smiljanic, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Bobcats have a new head coach and only two returning starters. Nutt comes from Arkansas State, where he was an assistant the past five years. Look for JC imports Yavsaner and Smiljanic to have an immediate impact. The school is also high on freshman Adrian Moss, a 6-9 forward from Texas.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: San Marcos, Texas. **Home court:** Strahan Coliseum (7,200).

11 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

National Rank: 301

Coach: Danny Kaspar (first year; 219-52 overall, 9 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-21. Southland: 3-15/11th.

Key players: Ron Banks, F, 6-8, Sr. (14.1 ppg); Aaron Radl, G, 6-1, Sr. (11.3 ppg); Emmanuel Jackson, F, 6-8, Sr. (8.0 rpg, 2.3 bpg); Scott Spradlin, G, 6-5, Jr. (JC); Warren Busby, G, 5-10, Jr. (JC); Steven Ozier, F, 6-7, Fr.

Outlook: The Lumberjacks are rebuilding under Kaspar, who compiled an impressive record at the University of the Incarnate Word, an NAIA school in San Antonio. Immediate success could be harder to come by at SFA. Last season the Lumberjacks were as bad at home (3-12) as they were on the road (3-9). Banks was one of the few bright spots, ranking 10th in the league in scoring. Jackson returns to provide rebounding and shot blocking.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Nacogdoches, Texas. **Home court:** William R. Johnson Coliseum (7,200).

Schedules

Lamar	McNeese State	Louisiana-Monroe	Nicholls State	Northwestern State	Sam Houston State	SE Louisiana
N18 at Texas Southern	N18 at Mississippi State	N20 at LSU	N17 at Tulane	N17 at Texas Christian	N17 Texas A&M Kingsville	N18 Dillard
N25 SMU	N21 at La.-Lafayette	N25 at Arkansas	N27 Louisiana Tech	N21 at Southern	N22 at Mississippi	N21 at Florida A&M
D2 Rice	N25 Louisiana Tech	N28 at Mississippi	N29 Loyola (La.)	D5 Oral Roberts	N25 at South Alabama	N27 at Mississippi State
D5 at Texas A&M	D2 Loyola (La.)	D4 at Houston	D2 at Georgetown	D16 at Oklahoma State	N28 Letourneau	D2 at Montana
D16 McNeese State	D13 at LSU	D13 Louisiana College	D12 at New Orleans	D18 at Oral Roberts	D1-2 Pizza Hut Classic	D13 at Mississippi
D19 Loyola (La.)	D16 at Lamar	D16 at SE Louisiana	D18 La.-Monroe	D20 at Arkansas	D18 McNeese State	D16 La.-Monroe
D22 at Oklahoma State	D18 at Sam Houston St.	D18 at Nicholls State	D22 LSU	D28 Sam Houston State	D23 New Orleans	D21 at Southern
D28 at Louisiana-Monroe	D20 Arkansas State	D20 Tougaloo College	D28 at Stephen F. Austin	D30 Lamar	D28 at Northwestern State	D28 at Texas-Arlington
D30 at Northwestern State	D28 Texas-San Antonio	D28 Lamar	D30 at Texas-Arlington	J4 at Louisiana-Monroe	D30 at La.-Monroe	D30 at Stephen F. Austin
J3 at Tulane	D30 SW Texas State	D30 Sam Houston State	J4 at McNeese State	J8 McNeese State	J4 Texas-Arlington	J2 at Alabama
J6 Texas-Arlington	J4 Nicholls State	J4 Northwestern State	J6 Texas-San Antonio	J11 at Texas-Arlington	J6 at Stephen F. Austin	J6 Southwest Texas
J8 Stephen F. Austin	J6 at La.-Monroe	J6 McNeese State	J8 Southwest Texas	J13 at Stephen F. Austin	J13 at Texas-San Antonio	J8 Texas-San Antonio
J15 at Texas-San Antonio	J8 at Texas-Arlington	J11 at Stephen F. Austin	J13 Southeastern LA	J20 Texas-San Antonio	J15 at SW Texas State	J13 at Nicholls State
J20 Nicholls State	J12 at Richmond	J13 at Texas-Arlington	J16 at Centenary	J22 Southwest Texas	J20 SE Louisiana	J15 at McNeese State
J22 SE Louisiana	J15 SE Louisiana	J20 SW Texas State	J20 at Lamar	J25 at Nicholls State	J22 Nicholls State	J20 at Sam Houston State
J27 at Stephen F. Austin	J18 Texas-Arlington	J22 Texas-San Antonio	J22 at Sam Houston State	J27 Louisiana-Monroe	J27 at Texas-Arlington	J22 at Lamar
J29 at Texas-Arlington	J20 Stephen F. Austin	J27 at Northwestern State	J25 Northwestern State	J29 at SE Louisiana	J29 Stephen F. Austin	J25 McNeese State
F3 Louisiana-Monroe	J25 at SE Louisiana	F3 at Lamar	J27 McNeese State	F3 at Sam Houston State	F3 Northwestern State	J29 Northwestern State
F5 Northwestern State	J27 at Nicholls State	F5 at Sam Houston State	F3 Stephen F. Austin	F5 at Lamar	F5 Louisiana-Monroe	F3 Texas-Arlington
F8 at Sam Houston State	F3 at Texas-San Antonio	F10 Nicholls State	F5 Texas-Arlington	F10 SE Louisiana	F8 Lamar	F5 Stephen F. Austin
F10 at McNeese State	F5 at Southwest Texas St.	F12 Southeastern La.	F10 at La.-Monroe	F12 Nicholls State	F10 at McNeese State	F10 at Northwestern State
F17 at SE Louisiana	F10 Lamar	F15 at SW Texas State	F12 at Northwestern State	F15 at Texas-San Antonio	F17 at Nicholls State	F12 at La.-Monroe
F19 at Nicholls State	F12 Sam Houston State	F17 at Texas-San Antonio	F17 Sam Houston State	F17 at SW Texas State	F24 SW Texas State	F17 Lamar
F24 Texas-San Antonio	F17 at Texas-Arlington		F19 Lamar	F21 Centenary College	F26 Texas-San Antonio	F19 Sam Houston State
F26 Southwest Texas State	F19 at Stephen F. Austin		F24 at SE Louisiana	F24 McNeese State	M3 at Lamar	F24 Nicholls State
M3 Sam Houston State	F24 Northwestern State		M1 at Texas-San Antonio	M1 Stephen F. Austin		M1 at SW Texas State
	F26 La.-Monroe		M3 at Southwest Texas	M3 Texas-Arlington		M3 at Texas-San Antonio

Southwest Texas N18 St. Edward's N21 at Centenary N25 at Houston N28 Texas A&M-C. Christi D2 at Texas D7 Stephen F. Austin D16 Texas Lutheran D20 at Oklahoma D23 at Texas Southern D30 at McNeese State J6 at SE Louisiana J8 at Nicholls State J13 Lamar J15 Sam Houston J20 at La-Monroe	J22 at Northwestern J27 at Texas-San Antonio F5 McNeese State F10 at Stephen F. Austin F12 at Texas-Arlington F15 La.-Monroe F17 Northwestern State F19 Texas-San Antonio F24 at Sam Houston F26 at Lamar M1 SE Louisiana M3 Nicholls State Stephen F. Austin N19 Loyola of Chicago N21 at South Alabama N25 Ark.-Monticello	N28 at Rice D2 at Texas Tech D7 Southwest Texas D9 Texas-San Antonio D20 Schreiner D28 Nicholls State D30 SE Louisiana J6 Sam Houston J8 at Lamar J11 UL- Monroe J13 Northwestern State J20 at McNeese State J22 UT-Arlington J27 Lamar J29 at Sam Houston State F3 Nicholls State F5 at SE Louisiana	F10 Southwest Texas F12 UT-San Antonio F19 McNeese State F24 at UT-Arlington M1 Northwestern State M3 La.-Monroe Texas-Arlington N18 Texas Wesleyan N21 Ark.-Monticello N26 at Wichita State D3 at Colorado D7 at Texas-San Antonio D9 at SW Texas State D16 at Missouri-Kansas City D20 at Texas Christian D23 Stony Brook	D28 SE Louisiana D30 Nicholls State J4 at Sam Houston State J6 at Lamar J11 Northwestern State J13 at La.-Monroe J18 at McNeese State J22 at Stephen F. Austin St. J27 Sam Houston State J29 Lamar F3 at SE Louisiana F5 at Nicholls State F10 Texas-San Antonio F12 SW Texas State F24 Stephen F. Austin State M1 at La.-Monroe M3 at Northwestern State	Texas-San Antonio N17 at Kansas State N21 at Illinois-Chicago N25 St. Mary's N28 at Texas D2 TCU D7 Texas-Arlington D9 Stephen F. Austin D17 at Illinois State D28 at McNeese State J2 at Oklahoma State J6 at Nicholls State J8 at Southeastern La. J13 Sam Houston State J15 Lamar J20 at Northwestern State	J22 at La.-Monroe J27 SW Texas State F3 McNeese State F10 at Texas-Arlington F12 at Stephen F. Austin F15 Northwestern State F17 La.-Monroe F19 at SW Texas State F24 at Lamar F26 at Sam Houston State M1 Nicholls State M3 Southeastern La.
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Ivy

RANK 24

1 PENN National Rank: 99

Coach: Fran Dunphy (194-105, 11 years; 1-5 NCAA Tournament record)

1999-2000 record: 21-8. Ivy: 14-0/1st; Lost to Illinois in NCAA East first round.

Key players: Ugonna Onyekwe, F, 6-9/So. (11.7 ppg, 6.0 rpg); Geoff Owens, C, 6-11/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 7.3 rpg); David Klatsky, G, 5-11/So. (77.8 FT%, 37.1 %).

Outlook: The Quakers will try to do what the Bulls could not: win without Michael Jordan. Penn's Jordan graduated last year after leading the Quakers to their second straight Ivy title and NCAA appearance. And while he took Matt Langell with him, the Quakers are still the team to beat. Onyekwe, last year's Rookie of the Year, is the Quakers' top gun. The power forward scored 17 points in Penn's NCAA loss to Illinois and will dominate the Ivys. Owens returns to give the team a tough frontcourt duo.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** The Palestra (8,700).

2 PRINCETON National Rank: 105

Coach: Vacant

1999-2000 record: 19-11. Ivy: 11-3/2nd.

Key players: Chris Young, C, 6-11/Jr., (13.5 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Spencer Gloger, G, 6-6/So. (12.1 ppg, 44.5 %); Nate Walton, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.9 ppg); Ed Persia, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: The Tigers' biggest worry this offseason began with keeping Young away from the Pittsburgh Pirates, who drafted him in the third round this year. It appears he will stay in school at least another year. However, the team then lost its head coach, Bill Carmody, to Northwestern, after assistant Joe Scott left to take over at Air Force. With Young at center and Gloger at off-guard, the Tigers have a formidable inside-outside game. What they need—and hope the new coach can develop—is a third player to step up when it counts. Persia could be the man this winter.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Princeton, N.J. **Home court:** Jadwin Gym (6,854).

3 YALE National Rank: 244

Coach: James Jones (7-20, 1 year)

1999-2000 record: 7-20. Ivy: 5-9/T5th.

Key players: Onaje Woodbine, G, 6-2/Jr. (14.7 ppg, 77.8 FT%); Chris Leanza, G, 6-1/So. (12.3 ppg, 78.2 FT%); Neil Yanke, C, 6-11/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 7.8 rpg).

Outlook: When Jones took over as coach last year, he challenged his team and said it was time to take on Penn and Princeton. Most people laughed. Less than a year later, Yale could do just that. Jones has beefed up the schedule, adding Ohio State, Penn State, Rhode Island and California, which will make Yale tougher in league play. Leading the team will be a backcourt of Woodbine and Leanza, a pair of double-digit scorers, and Yanke, the league's second-leading rebounder.

Last league title: 1962.

Last NCAA appearance: 1962.

Site: New Haven, Conn. **Home court:** John J. Lee Amphitheater (3,100).

4 COLUMBIA National Rank: 251

Coach: Armond Hill (47-84, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 13-14. Ivy: 7-7/T3rd.

Key players: Craig Austin, F, 6-5/Jr. (14.2 ppg); Treg Duerksen, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 40.6 %); Joe Case, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg); Mike McBrien, C, 6-7/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 44.7 %); Derrick Mayo, G, 6-1/Jr. (4.1 ppg).

Outlook: Hill's Lions are coming off their best season since '92-93, which doesn't say a lot. But a third-place finish is all most Ivy teams can hope for. Austin, an All-Ivy performer as a sophomore, gives Columbia reason to believe. One of five returning starters, he will be helped by Duerksen, one of the league's top 3-point threats and one of three Lions (Case and McBrien) who shoot better than 40 percent behind the arc.

Last league title: 1968.

Last NCAA appearance: 1968.

Site: New York. **Home court:** Levien Gymnasium (3,400).

5 HARVARD National Rank: 267

Coach: Frank Sullivan (97-138, 9 years; 211-224, 16 years)

1999-2000 record: 12-15. Ivy: 7-7/T3rd.

Key players: Dan Clemente, F, 6-7/Sr. (18.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 38.6 %; 81.8 FT%); Tim Coleman, C, 6-8/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 45.7 %); Elliott Prasse-Freeman, G, 6-4/So. (7.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 5.0 rpg).

Outlook: Harvard is the only team other than Penn and Princeton to finish in the top four the past five years. But it has never won the league. This year promises to be another near-.500 season. Clemente, who missed half of last season with an eye injury, came back to average 18.6 points. A good backcourt features the league's assist leader in Prasse-Freeman and the top thief in junior Andrew Gellert.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1946.

Site: Cambridge, Mass. **Home court:** Lavietes Pavilion (2,195).

6 BROWN National Rank: 278

Coach: Glen Miller (8-19, 1 year; 103-77 overall,

BY MARK ECKEL

Trenton (N.J.) Times

All-Ivy

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Spencer Gloger, Princeton	6-6	195	So.
G	Onaje Woodbine, Yale	6-2	175	Jr.
C	Chris Young, Princeton	6-11	255	Jr.
F	Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn	6-9	225	So.
F	Dan Clemente, Harvard	6-7	220	Sr.

Player of the Year

Ugonna Onyekwe, F, Penn

Newcomer of the Year

Ed Persia, G, Princeton

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Spencer Gloger, Princeton

Best rebounder: Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn

Best playmaker: Chris Leanza, Yale

Best defender: Geoff Owens, Penn

Best leaper: Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn

Most versatile: Dan Clemente, Harvard

Most flamboyant: Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn

Best NBA prospect: Chris Young, Princeton

7 years).

1999-2000 record: 8-19. Ivy: 4-10/7th.

Key players: Earl Hunt, G/F, 6-5/So. (17.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 79.2 FT%); Alaiava Nuualititi, F, 6-6/So. (13.3 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 49 FG%); Josh Meyer, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 40.7 %; 84.8 FT%); Jesse Wood, G, 6-3/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 37.3 %).

Outlook: The Bears could improve this season under second-year coach Miller. Sophomore swingman Hunt, the Ivy's top returning scorer, leads a young group that will not have a senior starter. It could have a freshman, however, in Ramel Carrington, a guard who averaged close to 30 points in high school. That youth means Brown will not be ready to challenge the big boys just yet, but Bears could put a scare into them next season.

Last league title: 1986.

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Providence, R.I. **Home court:** Pizzitola Center (2,800).

7 DARTMOUTH National Rank: 299

Coach: Dave Faucher (108-127, 9 years).

1999-2000 record: 9-18. Ivy: 5-9/T5th.

Key players: Greg Butch, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.9 ppg, 1.8 spg, 82.7 FT%); Flinder Boyd, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 6.9 apg); Charles Harris, F, 6-5/So.

Outlook: It all came apart for the Big Green last year, when the school that was supposed to challenge Penn and Princeton for the title instead came within two games of last place. Dartmouth lost its first two league games to archrival Harvard and never recovered. This year coach Faucher's team will try to bounce back behind an experienced backcourt of shooter Butch and ballhandler Boyd. Harris returns after a year off.
Last league title: 1959.

Last NCAA appearance: 1959.

Site: Hanover, N.H. **Home court:** The Leede Arena (2,100).

8 CORNELL National Rank: 308

Coach: Steve Donahue (first year)

1999-2000 record: 10-17. Ivy: 3-11/8th.

Key players: Ray Mercedes, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 41.1 3%); Wallace Prather, G, 5-9/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 6.3 apg, 3.6 spg); Greg Barratt, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 7.7 rpg);

Kevin Cuttica, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.2 ppg).

Outlook: When coach Scott Thompson resigned in early August, it left a void in the Big Red ranks. But Donahue, who took the helm in September, has some players to work with, if he can develop some chemistry among them. Mercedes is coming off a disappointing junior year after a very good sophomore season. He will look for help from point guard Prather and center Barratt.

Last league title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Ithaca, N.Y. **Home court:** Newman Arena (4,473).

Schedules

Brown	Columbia	Cornell	Dartmouth	Harvard	Pennsylvania	Princeton	Yale
N17 at Wagner	N17-18 Mohegan Sun Cl	N18 Lafayette	N17-18 Pepsi-Marist Cl.	N21 Holy Cross	N17-18 CoSIDA Classic	N25 at Monmouth	N17 at Ohio State
N21 High Point	N21 Miami	N24-25 Spartan Classic	N25 New Hampshire	N25 Lehigh	N28 at Davidson	D1-2 First Merchants Cl.	N19 at Cleveland State
N25 at Boston College	N25 Mount St. Mary's	N29 at Army	N29 at Holy Cross	N28 at Northeastern	D2 at Penn State	D6 at Lafayette	N22 Long Island
D3 at Denver	N29 at Lafayette	D4 Skidmore	D9 at Lehigh	D2 at Albany	D7 La Salle	D9 Xavier	N27 Penn State
TBA at Rhode Island	D6 Army	D9 Bucknell	D12 Southern Maine	D5 Boston U.	D9 Maryland	D14 Rutgers	N30-D1 Phoenix Classic
D9 at Army	D11 Lehigh	D16 Canisius	D16 at Harvard	D9 at Colgate	D29 Temple	D18 at Texas Christian	D4 Colgate
D23 at Providence	J3 at Wagner	D22 at Lehigh	D19 Quinnipiac	D16 Dartmouth	J4 at Villanova	D23 at Holy Cross	D7 at Vermont
D28 Elon	J12 at Pennsylvania	D29 Gossner Foods Cl.	D22 at Minnesota	D19 Vermont	J7 at Florida Int.	D27 ECAC Holiday Fest.	D11 at Rhode Island
D30 Holy Cross	J13 at Princeton	J3 at Colgate	D30 Virginia	D28 at Georgia Tech	J12 Columbia	J12 Cornell	D28-29 Golden Bear Cl.
J3 at Lehigh	J20 at Cornell	J6 Sacred Heart	J6 Harvard	D30 at Mercer	J13 Cornell	J13 Columbia	J3 at Army
J6 Maine	J22 Albany	J12 at Princeton	J12 Brown	J2 at Navy	J17 at Delaware	F2 Brown	J6 at Holy Cross
J12 at Dartmouth	J27 Cornell	J13 at Pennsylvania	J13 Yale	J6 at Dartmouth	J20 at Lafayette	F3 Yale	J12 at Harvard
J13 at Harvard	F2 Dartmouth	J20 Columbia	J16 Colgate	J8 New Hampshire	J24 Lehigh	F9 at Dartmouth	J13 at Dartmouth
J19 at Yale	F3 Harvard	J27 at Columbia	J20 Albany	J12 Yale	J27 St. Joseph's	F10 at Harvard	J19 Brown
J24 at Stony Brook	F9 at Brown	J29 at Stony Brook	J24 at Albany	J13 Brown	F2 Yale	F13 at Pennsylvania	J27 at Brown
J27 Yale	F10 at Yale	F2 Harvard	J29 at Vermont	J29 Hartford	F3 Brown	F16 at Columbia	F2 at Pennsylvania
J30 Northeastern	F16 Princeton	F3 Dartmouth	F2 at Columbia	F2 at Cornell	F6 Drexel	F17 at Cornell	F3 at Princeton
F2 at Princeton	F17 Pennsylvania	F9 at Yale	F3 at Cornell	F3 at Columbia	F9 at Harvard	F23 Harvard	F9 Cornell
F3 at Penn	F23 Yale	F10 at Brown	F9 Princeton	F9 Pennsylvania	F10 at Dartmouth	F24 Dartmouth	F10 Columbia
F9 Columbia	F24 Brown	F16 Pennsylvania	F10 Penn	F10 Princeton	F13 Princeton	M2 at Yale	F16 Dartmouth
F10 Cornell	M2 at Harvard	F17 Princeton	F16 at Yale	F16 at Brown	F16 at Cornell	M3 at Brown	F17 Harvard
F16 Harvard	M3 at Dartmouth	F23 Brown	F17 at Brown	F17 at Yale	F17 at Columbia	M6 Pennsylvania	F23 at Columbia
F17 Dartmouth		F24 Yale	F23 at Penn	F23 at Princeton	F23 Dartmouth		F24 at Cornell
F23 at Cornell		M2 at Dartmouth	F24 at Princeton	F24 at Pennsylvania	F24 Harvard		M2 Princeton
F24 at Columbia		M3 at Harvard	M2 Cornell	M2 Columbia	M2 at Brown		M3 Pennsylvania
M2 Princeton			M3 Columbia	M3 Cornell	M3 at Yale		
M3 Penn					M6 at Princeton		

Northeast

**RANK
25**

1 ST. FRANCIS (N.Y.) National Rank: 133

Coach: Ron Ganulin (109-141, 9 years; 136-164 overall, 11 years)

1999-2000 record: 18-12. Northeast: 12-6/T4th.

Key players: Steven Howard, G, 6-3/Sr. (17.6 ppg, 36.4 3%, 77.0 FT%, 4.2 rpg); Richy Dominguez, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 6.8 rpg); Greg Nunn, G, 5-10/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 50.9 FG%, 6.1 apg, 2.0 spg); Heberth Reyes, C, 6-11/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 57.1 FG%, 7.0 rpg, 1.6 bpg); Omar Hatcher, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The team to beat, even with the departures of No. 2 scorer Angel Santana and long-range bomber Henry Lalane. Why so much optimism? St. Francis can still put up points in bunches. The Terriers return four senior starters including Howard at shooting guard, who is a big-time scorer. The talents of Dominguez, who runs the floor well, and point guard Nunn should become even more evident. If St. Francis can find some help up front, it can shake off two straight losses in the conference tournament semifinals, both times to the eventual NEC champion. Reyes provides a

legitimate center presence and 6-8 junior Cory Underwood shows promise. Hatcher, a high school teammate of Kobe Bryant, and Loyola (Md.) transfer Clifford Strong are other potential point producers.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. **Home court:** Pope P.E. Center (1,250).

2 FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON National Rank: 147

Coach: Tom Green (289-201, 17 seasons; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 17-11. Northeast: 13-5/T2nd.

Key players: Chris Ekwe, C, 6-8/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 54.6 FG%, 8.0 rpg); Jarvis Mitchell, G, 5-11/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 78.9 FT%); LaMarque Ward, G, 6-4/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 75.3 F%, 4.5 rpg); Morlaye Bangoura, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 3.5 rpg); Keith Martin, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg).

Outlook: The Knights suffered through a rough off-season when shooting guard and No. 2 scorer Wim

By TONY GRAHAM

Asbury Park (N.J.) Press

All-Northeast

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Rahsaan Johnson, Monmouth	6-0	180	Jr.
G	Steven Howard, St. Francis (NY)	6-3	195	Sr.
F	Richy Dominguez, St. Francis (NY)	6-5	195	Sr.
C	Corsley Edwards, Central Conn.	6-9	275	Jr.
C	Chris Ekwe, Fairleigh Dickinson	6-8	250	Sr.

Player of the Year

Steven Howard, G, St. Francis (NY)

Newcomer of the Year

Peter Mulligan, F, Maryland-Baltimore Cty

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Jared Grasso, Quinnipiac
- Best rebounder:** Kennedy Okafor, UMBC
- Best playmaker:** Greg Nunn, St. Francis (NY)
- Best defender:** Kareem Smith, Long Island
- Best leaper:** Jermaine Hall, Wagner
- Most versatile:** Dean Walker, Central Connecticut
- Most flamboyant:** Richy Dominguez, St. Francis (NY)
- Best NBA prospect:** Corsley Edmonds, Central Connecticut

Van de Keere (13.1 ppg) was among several players who left the program. But Green replaced eight letterwinners prior to the 1999-2000 campaign and should be able to work some of that mojo again. Green won't start from scratch. Ekwe is one of four players who started down the stretch and helped FDU win nine of 10 games. Mitchell and Ward have the task of spotting Ekwe in good scoring position and getting him the ball. James Felton, a well-traveled 6-9 junior who played in six games at St. John's in 1997-98 and has attended Florida State and St. Peter's, hopes to revive a once promising career.

Last league title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Teaneck, N.J. **Home court:** Rothman Center (5,000).

3 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT National Rank: 154

Coach: Howie Dickenman (56-60, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 25-6. Northeast: 15-3/1st.

Key players: John Tice, F, 6-5/Sr. (15.0 ppg, 78.6 FT%, 5.1 rpg, 1.4 spg); Corsley Edwards, C, 6-9/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 50.0 FG%, 7.5 rpg, 2 bpg); Dean Walker, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 82.5 FT%, 5.5 rpg); Lee Guinn, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Shaaron Sinvilcin, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: Last year's Dream Season included a trip to the NAAs, where the Blue Devils pushed Midwest No. 2 seed Iowa State to the limit, and a 14-1 record at home. They may not be done, although it will be a tougher task with eight newcomers. Central returns with Tice, man-mountain Edwards in the middle and the underrated Walker, who can play either guard position. But the Blue Devils will be hard-pressed to replace NEC Player of the year Rick Mickens and defensive specialist Tomas Brookins. Their fate will rest in the hands of a new backcourt in the pure-shooting Guinn and Sinvilcin.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: New Britain, Conn. **Home court:** Detrick Gym (4,500).

4 MARYLAND-BALTIMORE COUNTY National Rank: 213

Coach: Tom Sullivan (54-85, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-18. Northeast: 7-11/T7th.

Key players: Terence Ward G, 6-1/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 85 FG%, 1.2 spg); Kennedy Okafor, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 49.1 FG%, 9.3 rpg, 1.2 bpg); Justin Wilson, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 4.1 apg, 1.4 spg); Brad Martin, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 61.4 FG% 4.6 rpg); Kareem Washington, G, 6-3/So.

Outlook: After a stunning NEC debut in 1998-99 when they won the regular season title, the Retrievers faltered last year. UMBC went 2-9 in games decided by seven points or less after an 8-3 record in such games in its championship year. Four starters return, led by Ward, Okafor (who led the NEC in rebounding) and Martin. But this team needs meaningful contributions from its youngsters. Freshman F Peter Mulligan, a blue-chip recruit from New York, and 6-9 freshman Will McClurkin should help UMBC make a quick return to the NEC's upper echelon. Ward should get help on the perimeter with the return of junior Rich Giddens, who took a year off of school, and the addition of freshman Ronald Yates.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Retriever Activities

Center (4,024).

5 MONMOUTH National Rank: 218

Coach: Dave Calloway (20-47, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 12-16. Northeast: 9-9/6th.

Key players: Rahsaan Johnson, G, 6-0/Jr. (17.7 ppg, 80.2 FT%, 5.4 rpg, 3.1 apg, 2.0 spg); Kevin Owens, C, 6-10/So. (8.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.3 bpg); Gerry Crosby, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 45.2 FG%); Steve Bridgemahon, F, 6-8/Jr. (5.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Russell Anderson, F, 6-7/So. (4.7 ppg, 73.3 FT%).

Outlook: The Hawks are looking to build on last year's 12-win renaissance, which followed successive four- and five-win seasons. At the nerve center of the revival is Johnson, who did everything last season except hand out game programs. Johnson, who set an NEC tournament record with 40 points in a loss to St. Francis (N.Y.), scores, creates for teammates and is considered the best in the league working off the dribble. The Hawks lost some guard depth when junior Raheem Carter left. Monmouth will continue its resurgence if Owens matures and several youngsters, including sweet-shooting freshman Jason Krayl, can take some heat off Johnson, who played JC ball with Houston Rockets guard Steve Francis.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: West Long Branch, N.J. **Home court:** Boylan Gym (2,500).

6 QUINNIPIAC National Rank: 222

Coach: Joe DeSantis (36-71, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 18-10. Northeast: 12-6/T4th.

Key players: Jared Grasso, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.1 ppg, 43.1 3%, 3.8 apg); Bill Romano, C, 6-8/Jr. (13.6 ppg, 52.2 FG%, 74.8 FT%, 4.8 rpg); Jamar Fields, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 81.0 FT% 1.3 spg); Alpha East, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.1 ppg, 68.3 FG%); Kareem Lee, G, 6-1/Jr. (RS).

Outlook: One of the NEC's pleasant surprises last season, the Braves will try to keep moving forward minus graduated All-NEC swingman Nate Pondexter. There are still weapons in the arsenal with the long-range accuracy of Grasso and potent inside game of Romano. Two transfers, Lee (from Drake) and senior point guard Collin Charles (from St. John's), will be asked to fuel a more fullcourt attack. Quinnipiac is looking for its first NEC tournament invitation, but it won't happen without some major development on the front line beyond Romano. Senior Jason Rosato (6-9) or senior East has to rebound better.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Hamden, Conn. **Home court:** Burt Kahn Court-Athletic Center (1,500).

7 WAGNER National Rank: 247

Coach: Dereck Whittenburg (11-16, first year).

1999-2000 record: 11-16; Northeast 6-12/10th.

Key players: Jermaine Hall, F, 6-4/So. (16.6 ppg, 54.4 FG%, 6.5 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 1.1 spg); Chris Jackson, F, 6-6/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 45.7 FG%, 6.0 rpg); Dedrick Dye, G, 6-0/So. (10.9 ppg, 46.0 FG%, 3.5 apg); Jeff Klauder, G, 6-4/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 75.0 FT%, 39.7 3%, 4.0 rpg); Hassan Wilkerson, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 78.9 FT%, 4.1 rpg, 1.6 spg).

Outlook: The entire team, which led the NEC in offense (77.7 ppg), assists (17.2 apg), steals (11.4 spg) and turnover margin (6.4), returns, hopeful that one year of experience and a few contributing newcomers in 6-8 Nigel Wyatte and 6-5 freshman Juma Allen will further vault the frenzied-paced,

sometimes-wild Seahawks up the NEC ladder. Wagner fielded an entire team of underclassmen in 1999-2000 that could again be dangerous to face. However, Wagner was last in rebounding margin (minus 6.3) and next-to-last in blocked shots with a lineup that didn't go bigger than 6-6. It will need to beef up to move up.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Staten Island, N.Y. **Home court:** Spiro Sports Center (2,500).

8 MOUNT SAINT MARY'S National Rank: 272

Coach: Jim Phelan (809-463, 46 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 9-20. Northeast: 7-11/T7th.

Key players: Jerry Lloyd, G, 5-11/Jr. (6.4 ppg, 36.3 3%, 70.0 FT%); Aaron Herbert, G, 5-10/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 80 FT%); Michael Cook, C, 6-9/Sr. (3.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg); Donte Alexander, G, 6-3, Fr.; Jamion Christian, G, 6-2/Fr.; Melvin Whitaker, C, 6-10/So. (11 ppg, 6.3 rpg).

Outlook: The Mount never recovered after 6-10 Melvin Whitaker suffered a season-ending broken ankle last fall. He was later dismissed from school for academic reasons, along with starting forward Terence Wilson (10.2 ppg). Whitaker, who was named to the NEC All-Newcomer team as a freshman, was readmitted recently and might be eligible to play in the second semester. If he returns, the Mount should be at least respectable. Phelan, college basketball's winningest active coach, may lean heavily on newcomers Alexander, Christian and Keith Price to produce right away.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Emmittsburg, Md. **Home court:** Knott Center (3,196).

9 ST. FRANCIS (PA) National Rank: 273

Coach: Bobby Jones (10-18, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 10-18. Northeast: 7-11, T7th.

Key players: Jamal Ragland, G, 5-10/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 79.6 FT%, 4.4 apg); Reiner Mougol, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg); Milan Azanjac, C, 6-10/Fr.; Clinton Crouch, G, 5-11/Sr.; Pete Fox, F, 6-5/So.

Outlook: The Red Flash will be undergoing a major makeover with six newcomers and a new philosophy. Instead of bombing from 3-point range, St. Francis will resort to more of a post-up, balanced attack thanks to some bulk inside. It will feature Azanjac, who was labeled a "stunning recruiting coup" by one national expert. Senior center Melvin Scott returns after missing the entire 1999-2000 season with a shoulder injury. Azanjac, ready or not in his first year, has the bulk to justify the expectations. A legitimate inside game should prove healthy for three-year starting point guard Ragland. He provides stability in the backcourt after dishing out over 100 assists each of the past three years and sinking 48 3s last season. Mougol will do better back at his power forward slot after playing out of position last season due to Scott's injury.

Last league title: 1991.

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Loretto, PA. **Home court:** Stokes Athletic Center (2,500).

10 LONG ISLAND National Rank: 283

Coach: Ray Martin (18-36, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 8-19; Northeast 5-13/11th.

Key players: Antawn Dobie, G, 6-0/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 4.3 apg, 2.2 spg); JaJa Bey, F, 6-7/So. (4.7 ppg); Karim Smith, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 46.5 FG%, 6.3

rpg, 1.7 spg); Maurice Yearwood, G, 6-0/So. (4.6 ppg, 76.5 FT%); Cheikh Fall, C, 6-10/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 2.4 bpg).

Outlook: After abandoning the speed game the past two years, the Blackbirds plan on returning to a more up-tempo style. They lose the fourth-leading scorer in school history in Richie Parker but are banking on a young nucleus of Dobie, Bey and Yearwood to improve on last year's disappointing finish. It appears Fall, the NEC's shot-blocking leader last year, will return with an extra year of eligibility. The Blackbirds' depth is in the backcourt, so the interior production of Fall and Smith will play a major role. LIU could use immediate help from Raymond Edwards, a 6-7 freshman, and freshmen guards LaForest Knox and Walter Price.

Last league title: 1998.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Brooklyn, N.Y. **Home court:** Schwartz Athletic Center (1,300).

11 SACRED HEART National Rank: 290

Coach: Dave Bike (377-270, 22 years).

1999-2000 record: 3-25. Northeast: 2-16/12th.

Key players: Kurt Reis, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 45.4 FG%, 4.4 apg, 3.9 rpg, 1.4 spg); Tim Welch, C, 6-10/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 49.0 FG%, 8.3 rpg, 1.1 bpg); Marijus Kovaliuskas, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 42.3 3%, 74.2 FT%); Omar Wellington, G, 5-10/Fr.

Outlook: Kovaliuskas led the NEC in 3-point accuracy last year and the Pioneers, in their first Division I season, averaged four players in double figures. But an injury to Reis and other problems resulted in a one-on-one offense, while opposing shooters had a field day against the league's worst defense. Two different 11-game losing streaks were no joke. The fact Welch has been granted an extra year of eligibility and the arrival of four new faces offer reason for optimism.

Last league title: 1989 NECC (Division II).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** William H. Pitt Center (2,100).

12 ROBERT MORRIS National Rank: 291

Coach: Danny Nee (first year, 361-256 overall, 20 years; 1-7 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 18-12. Northeast: 13-5/T2nd.

Key players: Matt Smith, C, 6-9/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 51.1 FG%, 75.7 FT%, 6.3 rpg); Wesley Fluellen, F, 6-5/Jr. (6.2 ppg); Naron Jackson, G, 6-5/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 3.7 apg); Robert Shirley, F, 6-7/Sr. (RS).

Outlook: The cupboard is almost bare for Nee after the Colonials lost four of their top five scorers from 1999-2000, including NEC scoring champ Gene Nabors. In his two years at Robert Morris, the LSU transfer led the Colonials to 33 wins and the NEC Tournament final last March. They lack a blue-ship scorer and dominant rebounder, but Nee is hoping players like Smith and Shirley, who red-shirted last year, develop quickly down low. Some shooting help is expected from JC transfer Tyler Bacon and freshman Liviti Clark. Jackson is a mismatch waiting to happen playing the point at 6-5. That is something Nee could try to exploit as he rebuilds.

Schedules

Central Conn. State N17-18 Mohegan Sun Cl. N22 La Salle N27 at Long Island N30-D1 Phoenix Classic D7 Mount St. Mary's D9 Md.-Balt. County D12 at Air Force D29 at Seton Hall J3 at St. Francis (N.Y.) J6 at Wagner J8 at Sacred Heart J13 Quinnipiac J15 at F. Dickinson J20 Monmouth J22 Fairleigh Dickinson J27 Long Island J29 St. Francis (N.Y.) F1 at Mount St. Mary's F3 at Md.-Balt. County F8 Sacred Heart F10 Wagner F15 at Quinnipiac F17 Robert Morris F22 at St. Francis (Pa.) F24 at Robert Morris Fairleigh Dickinson N17 Drexel N18 at Rutgers N30 at Wagner D2 at Sacred Heart D7 St. Francis (N.Y.) D9 at Long Island D16 at Coastal Carolina D22 at Villanova D30 at Rider J3 at Buffalo J6 Robert Morris J8 St. Francis (Pa.) J13 Monmouth J15 C. Connecticut St. J20 at Quinnipiac J22 at C. Conn. State J27 Sacred Heart J29 Wagner F1 at St. Francis (N.Y.) F3 Long Island F8 at Robert Morris F10 at St. Francis (Pa.)	F15 at Md.-Balt. County F17 at Monmouth F22 Mount St. Mary's F24 Md.-Balt. County Long Island N17 at Virginia N22 at Yale N27 C. Connecticut St. D2 Quinnipiac D4 at Monmouth D9 Fairleigh Dickinson D16 James Madison D23 at Notre Dame J3at Manhattan J6at Mount St. Mary's J8 Md.-Balt. County J13 at St. Francis (N.Y.) J15 at Robert Morris J20 St. Francis (Pa.) J22 Robert Morris J27 at C. Conn. St. J29 at Quinnipiac F1 Monmouth F3 at F. Dickinson F8 Md.-Balt. County F10 Mount St. Mary's F15 Sacred Heart F17 St. Francis (N.Y.) F22 at Wagner F24 at Sacred Heart Md.-Balt. County N18 Towson N20 Loyola/Morgan St. D2 Robert Morris D4 St. Francis (Pa.) D7 at Quinnipiac D9 at Central Conn. St. D13 at Maryland D23 at Virginia D30 Bucknell J6 St. Francis (N.Y.) J8 Long Island J13 Mount St. Mary's J16 at Sacred Heart J20 Wagner J22 Sacred Heart	J27 at St. Francis (Pa.) J29 at Robert Morris F1 Quinnipiac F3 Central Conn. St. F8 at Long Island F10 at St. Francis (N.Y.) F15 Fairleigh Dickinson F17 at Mount St. Mary's F19 Navy F22 at Monmouth F24 at F. Dickinson Monmouth N21 at Rider N25 Princeton N27 at Drexel N30 at Sacred Heart D2 Wagner D7 Long Island D14 at Albany D16 St. Peter's D28 at UNLV D31 at Gonzaga J6 St. Francis (Pa.) J8 Robert Morris J11 at St. Francis (N.Y.) J13 at F. Dickinson J15 Quinnipiac J20 at Central Conn. St. J22 at Quinnipiac J27 at Wagner J29 Sacred Heart F1 at Long Island F3 St. Francis (N.Y.) F8 at St. Francis (Pa.) F10 at Robert Morris F15 at Mount St. Mary's F17 Fairleigh Dickinson F22 Md.-Balt. County F24 Mount St. Mary's Mount St. Mary's N16-17 BCA Classic N21 at Manhattan N25 at Columbia N30 Robert Morris D2 St. Francis (Pa.) D7 at Central Conn. St. D9 at Quinnipiac D16 at Loyola (Md.) D18 East Carolina	D20 Virginia Tech D30 at Marshall J3 at Bucknell J6 Long Island J8 St. Francis (N.Y.) J13 at Md.-Balt. County J15 at Wagner J20 Sacred Heart J22 Wagner J27 at Robert Morris J29 at St. Francis (Pa.) F1 Central Conn. St. F3 Quinnipiac F8 at St. Francis (NY) F10 at Long Island F15 Monmouth F17 Md.-Balt. County F22 at F. Dickinson F24 at Monmouth Quinnipiac N17 at Connecticut N24-25 Red Auerbach Trn. N28 Binghamton N30 at St. Francis (NY) D2 at Long Island D7 Md.-Balt. County D9 Mount St. Mary's D19 at Dartmouth D23 at Boston College J6 Army J8 at Wagner J13 at Central Conn. St. J15 at Monmouth J20 Fairleigh Dickinson J22 Monmouth J24 at Sacred Heart J27 St. Francis (N.Y.) J29 Long Island F1 at Md.-Balt. County F3 at Mount St. Mary's F8 Wagner F10 Sacred Heart F15 Central Conn. St. F17 St. Francis (Pa.) F22 at Robert Morris F24 at St. Francis (Pa.) Robert Morris N20 at Appalachian St. N22 at East Carolina	N24-26 Mountain Energy Tr. N30 at Mount St. Mary's D2 at Md.-Balt. County D7 Sacred Heart D9 Wagner D16 at West Virginia D20 at Ohio State D28 at Pittsburgh J2 Youngstown State J6 at Fairleigh Dickinson J8 at Monmouth J13 at St. Francis (Pa.) J15 Long Island J20 at St. Francis (N.Y.) J22 at Long Island J27 Mount St. Mary's J29 Md.-Balt. County F1 at Sacred Heart F3 at Wagner F8 Fairleigh Dickinson F10 Monmouth F14 St. Francis (Pa.) F17 at Central Conn. St. F22 Quinnipiac F24 Central Conn. St. Sacred Heart N18 at Notre Dame N25 at Hartford N27 Rider N30 Monmouth D2 Fairleigh Dickinson D7 at Robert Morris D9 at St. Francis (Pa.) D18-19 at Stanford Invit. D30 at Maine J3 Holy Cross J6 at Cornell J8 Central Conn. St. J13 at Wagner J16 Md.-Balt. County J20 at Mount St. Mary's J22 at Md.-Balt. County J24 Quinnipiac J27 at Fairleigh Dickinson J29 at Monmouth F1 Robert Morris F3 St. Francis (Pa.) F8 at Central Conn. St. F10 Quinnipiac	F15 at Long Island F17 Wagner F22 St. Francis (N.Y.) F24 Long Island St. Francis (N.Y.) N19 at Syracuse N28 at Iona N30 Quinnipiac D7 at Fairleigh Dickinson D9 at Pittsburgh D12 Fairfield D23 at St. Peter's D29-30 Holiday Stores Cl. J3 Central Conn. St. J6 at Md.-Balt. County J8 at Mount St. Mary's J11 Monmouth J13 Long Island J15 at St. Francis (Pa.) J20 Robert Morris J22 St. Francis (Pa.) J29 at Quinnipiac J27 at Central Conn. St. F1 Fairleigh Dickinson F3 at Monmouth F8 Mount St. Mary's F10 Md.-Balt. County F15 Wagner F17 at Long Island F21 at Sacred Heart F24 at Wagner St. Francis (Pa.) N18 Youngstown State N21 at Bucknell N27 at Niagara N29 Pittsburgh D2 at Mount St. Mary's D7 Wagner D9 Sacred Heart D19 at Morehead State D21 at Wright State D30 at Villanova J6 at Monmouth J8 at Fairleigh Dickinson J13 Robert Morris J15 St. Francis (N.Y.) J20 at Long Island J22 at St. Francis (N.Y.) J27 Md.-Balt. County	J29 Mount St. Mary's F1 at Wagner F3 at Sacred Heart F8 Monmouth F10 Fairleigh Dickinson F14 at Robert Morris F17 at Quinnipiac F22 Central Conn. St. F24 Quinnipiac Wagner N17 Brown N21 Lehigh N25 at Michigan N30 Fairleigh Dickinson D2 at Monmouth D7 at St. Francis (Pa.) D9 at Robert Morris D18 at Penn State D2 at Seton Hall D30 American J3 Columbia J6 Central Conn. St. J8 Quinnipiac J13 Sacred Heart J15 Mount St. Mary's J20 at Md.-Balt. County J22 at Mount St. Mary's J27 Monmouth J29 at Fairleigh Dickinson F1 St. Francis (Pa.) F3 Robert Morris F8 at Quinnipiac F10 at Central Conn. St. F15 at St. Francis (N.Y.) F17 at Sacred Heart F22 Long Island F24 St. Francis (N.Y.)
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Mid-Eastern Athletic

RANK
26

1 HAMPTON

National Rank: 219

Coach: Steve Merfeld (39-43, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 17-12.

Key players: Marseilles Brown, G, 5-10/Sr. (16 ppg, 5.5 apg); Tommy Adams, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.7 ppg); LaSean Howard, F, 6-6/Sr.; Tarvis Williams, F, 6-9/Sr.

Outlook: This is clearly the MEAC's most talented bunch. Talent by itself, however, does not win championships. Brown and Adams rank among the league's elite guards and forward Tarvis Williams, back for a fifth year, is set to solidify the interior with his rebounding and superior shot-blocking skills.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Hampton, Va. **Home court:** Convocation Center (7,500).

2 COPPIN STATE

National Rank: 243

Coach: Ron "Fang" Mitchell (256-157, 14 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-15. MEAC: 13-5/2nd.

Key players: Joe Brown, G, 6-7/Sr. (12.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Rasheem Sims, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 4 rpg, 3.4 apg); DeMond Huff, C, 6-10/So. (transfer).

Outlook: Brown is arguably the league's premier player. But he's not the sole reason the Eagles will contend for the title. With Mitchell calling the shots, Coppin is never out of the running. It also helps that the Eagles are usually one of the league's best defensive teams. Look for them to be vastly improved in the paint. Huff, Jean Pierre and versatile swingman LeMar Ruffin are expected to help Coppin rule the lanes. Freshman point guard Alexy Ferreira has conference rookie of the year potential.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Baltimore **Home court:** Coppin Center (3,000).

3 NORTH CAROLINA A&T

National Rank: 245

Coach: Chris Hunter (14-14, one year).

1999-2000 record: 14-14. MEAC: 11-8/6th.

Key players: J.J. Miller, G, 5-11/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 3.1 apg, 2.3 steals); Marquee Carrington, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.5 ppg); Tarrell Robinson, F, 6-6/Sr.; Bruce Jenkins, F, 6-6/Jr.; Jafar Taalib, C, 6-8/Jr.

Outlook: The Aggies believe the conference crown is theirs for the taking. The talent is there, and so is the desire and experience. Jenkins is a legitimate player of the year candidate. The Aggies run well when the break is available but also display patience in executing their halfcourt sets. The inside game is exceptional, with Jenkins and Robinson doing most of the damage, and the team can play stellar defense. What the Aggies need most is consistent perimeter shooting from Miller and Carrington.

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Corbett Center (7,600).

4 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

National Rank: 257

Coach: Cyrus "Cy" Alexander (223-160, 13 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 20-14. MEAC: 14-5/1st. Lost to Stanford in NCAA South first round.

Key players: John Shivers, G, 6-1/Sr. (5.3 ppg); Dexter Hall,

F, 6-8/Sr. (4.1 ppg, 6.9 rpg); Luis Radford, F, 6-8/Jr.; Vincent Whitt, G, 6-6/Sr. (transfer/Clemson); Andre Riviera, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: With no returning starters, the Bulldogs could be hurting, particularly during the first half of the season. Yet that's no reason to write this team off, particularly if Radford delivers as expected. Shivers, a solid performer in the backcourt, is one of the league's better one-on-one defenders. Hall excels as a relentless rebounder. The team will need help, though, from transfers Whitt and Riviera.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Orangeburg, S.C. **Home court:** Smith-Hammond Memorial Center (3,200).

5 NORFOLK STATE

National Rank: 258

Coach: Wil Jones (12-16, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 12-16. MEAC: 11-7/5th.

Key players: Terrence Winston, G, 5-11/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 2.4 apg); Darrell Neal, F, 6-8/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 13.1 rpg); Michael Boyd, F, 6-6/So. (transfer/New Hampshire); Gregory Quick, C, 6-9/So. (transfer/Houghton).

Outlook: When it comes to playing an uptempo game, the Spartans have no peers in the league. Winston and Neal are the focal points, and they should be more effective with post players Boyd and Quick joining the fold. Norfolk's inside game will be improved, but the team must learn to play better defense.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Norfolk, Va. **Home court:** Echols Arena (7,600).

6 MORGAN STATE

National Rank: 261

Coach: Chris Fuller (56-92, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 5-24. MEAC: 5-13/19th.

Key players: Curtis King, F, 6-7/Jr. (13.7 ppg in 1998-99 season); Reggie Winkfield, F, 6-5/So. (7.5 ppg); Michael Canady, C, 6-11/Sr.

Outlook: The Bears welcome the return of King, who is back after deciding that transferring to Drexel was not a good move. In some circles, he is considered the best all-around power forward in the conference. Morgan State can become this season's darkhorse if its inexperienced guards make a smooth transition. Point guard Donta Chinn, an Eastern Kentucky transfer, could be the missing ingredient Fuller has been looking for.

Last league title: 1977.

Last NCAA appearance: 1977.

Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Hill Field House (4,500).

7 BETHUNE-COOKMAN

National Rank: 271

Coach: Horace Broadnax (26-57, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-15. MEAC: 12-6/4th.

Key players: Derrick Lockwood, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.9 ppg); Brent King, F, 6-5/Jr. (3.4 ppg); Bryan Sanders, F, 6-6/Jr.; Moses Cage, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Tyree Harris, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: To stay afloat in this year's conference race, the usually feisty Wildcats need immediate help from Cage and Harris, who are tabbed to replace departed seniors Tyrus Livas and Freddie Cole. Lockwood, a slasher who has adequate range on his mid-range jumper, will assume an expanded role as scorer and team leader. To become a serious contender, the Wildcats must get better production from

CRAIG T. GREENLEE

Greensboro News and Record

All-MEAC

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marseilles Brown, Hampton	5-10	170	Sr.
G	Joe Brown, Coppin State	6-7	200	Sr.
F	LaSean Howard, Hampton	6-6	191	Sr.
C	Curtis King, Morgan State	6-7	205	Jr.
F	Bruce Jenkins, N.C. A&T	6-6	205	Jr.

Player of the Year

Joe Brown, G, Coppin State

Newcomer of the Year

Andre Riviera, G, South Carolina State

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Marseilles Brown, Hampton

Best rebounder: Darrell Neal, Norfolk State

Best playmaker: Marseilles Brown, Hampton

Best defender: Tarvis Williams, Hampton

Best leaper: Tarvis Williams, Hampton

Most versatile: Marquee Carrington, North Carolina A&T

Most flamboyant: Marseilles Brown, Hampton

Best NBA prospect: Joe Brown, Coppin State

their post players.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Daytona Beach, Fla. **Home court:** Moore Gym (3,000).

8 FLORIDA A&M

National Rank: 303

Coach: Mickey Clayton (40-83, four years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 9-21; MEAC: 7-11/8th.

Key players: Morris Scott, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 2.9 apg, 3.2 steals); Kendrick Green, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.3 ppg); John Cuyler, G, 6-1/Jr.; Aldelkhadre Cisse, C, 6-10/So.; Jermaine Hill, C, 6-1/So.

Outlook: This could be a make-or-break season for Clayton, who is in the final year of his contract. Scott is a stabilizing factor. But for FAMU to make some noise, Cisse and Hill must produce at both ends every night. Clayton is counting on the rapid development of freshmen guards Michael Kuhn and DeMarkis Wilkins, a pair of on-the-money perimeter shooters.

Last league title: None

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Tallahassee, Fla. **Home court:** Gaither Arena (3,365).

9 MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE

National Rank: 310

Coach: Thomas Trotter (first year).

1999-2000 record: 12-17; MEAC: 8-10/7th.

Key players: Sanyika Street, F, 6-8/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg); Adrian Pryce, G, 6-0/Sr.; Joshua Hickman, G, 5-9/Jr.

Outlook: The Hawks are hurting. With Demetric Reese, Kevin Wallace and Benji Surpin having finished their college careers in March, Eastern Shore must find a way to replace 70 percent of its offense. It won't be easy. Former New Mexico State assistant Trotter was hired in mid-June, so he didn't have much time to recruit for the upcoming season. Unless he comes up with some unexpected finds, there are difficult days ahead.

Last league title: 1974.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Princess Anne, Md. **Home court:** Athletic Center (5,500).

10 DELAWARE STATE

National Rank: 311

Coach: Greg Jackson (first year; 166-75 overall, nine years).

1999-2000 record: 6-22; 5-13/19th.

Key players: Andre Matthews, F, 6-5/So. (9 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 59.9 FG%); Marty Bailey, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 46.6% three-pointers); Brandon Calvert, C, 6-9/Sr..

Outlook: Coach Jackson arrives with a sterling reputation. At Division II North Carolina Central, Jackson never had a losing season. That may change this year. Bailey is a proven outside shooter who can stretch defenses, and Matthews has established himself as one of the league's better forwards. The Hornets, though, cannot win with a two-man show. Jackson, hired in late May, got a late start in recruiting, so he'll have to begin the rebuilding process with the present crew.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Dover, Del. **Home court:** Memorial Hall (3,000).

11 HOWARD

National Rank: 318

Coach: Frankie Allen (first year; 139-148 overall, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 1-27; MEAC: 1-17/11th.

Key players: Jonathan Stokes, G, 6-2/So. (11.6 ppg, 3.2 apg); Reggie Morris, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Ali

Abdullah, G, 5-10/Jr. (RS/medical).

Outlook: There's enough talent in Howard's backcourt to match up well against other league teams. The problem is up front. The Bison are woefully below par at the post positions. Until that deficiency is addressed, the team is doomed to stay at the bottom of the MEAC stack. Allen has his hands full in reshaping the thinking habits of a team that won only one game all of last season.

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Burr Gym (2,500).

Schedules

Bethune-Cookman

N17 at Georgetown
N26 Prairie View
N27 Wisc.-Milwaukee
D2 Furman
D4 Morgan State
D6 Coppin State
D9 at Minnesota
D13 Savannah State
D19 at Florida
J3 at Morris Brown
J6 at S. Carolina State
J8 at N. Carolina A&T
J13 Md.-Eastern Shore
J15 Howard
J17 Morris Brown
J20 at Delaware State
J27 at Hampton
J29 Norfolk State
F3 at Coppin State
F5 at Morgan State
F10 S. Carolina State
F12 N. Carolina A&T
F17 at Md.-East. Shore
F19 at Howard
F22 Texas A&M
F24 Delaware State
M2 Florida A&M

Coppin State

N21 Iona
N25 at Morgan State
N28 George Mason
D1-2 Minn. Winter Jam
D4 at Florida A&M
D6 at Beth.-Cookman
D16 at Oklahoma
D23 at California
D30 at Ohio State
J2 at Colorado

Norfolk State

J8 Hampton
J13 S. Carolina State
J15 N. Carolina A&T
J20 at Md.-East. Shore
J22 at Howard
J27 Delaware State
F3 Bethune-Cookman
F5 Florida A&M
F10 at Norfolk State
F12 at Hampton
F17 at S. Carolina State
F19 at N. Carolina A&T
F24 Md.-Eastern Shore
F26 Howard
M2 Morgan State

Delaware State

N20 at Delaware
N27 at Drake
N29 at UMKC
D2 at Lehigh
D4 S. Carolina State
D6 N. Carolina A&T St.
D12 Towson
D19 at Wyoming
D23 Maine
D30 at W. Virginia
J6 at Md.-East. Shore
J8 at Howard
J13 at Hampton
J15 at Norfolk State
J20 Bethune-Cookman
J22 Florida A&M
J27 at Coppin State
J29 Morgan State
F3 at S. Carolina St.
F5 at N. Carolina A&T
F10 at Md.-East. Shore
F12 Howard

F17 Hampton

F19 Norfolk State
F24 at Bethune-Cook.
F26 at Florida A&M
F26 at Albany

Florida A&M

N17 at Auburn
N21 SE Louisiana
N25 Bethune-Cookman
N27 Alabama State
N30 at Troy State
D4 Coppin State
D6 Morgan State
D10 at Florida
D18 at Texas-El Paso
D29-30 Capital City Cl.
J6 at N. Carolina A&T
J8 at S. Carolina State
J13 Howard
J15 Md.-Eastern Shore
J22 at Delaware State
J27 at Norfolk State
J29 Hampton
F3 at Morgan
F5 at Coppin State
F10 N. Carolina A&T
F12 S. Carolina State
F14 Troy State
F17 at Howard
F19 at Md.-East. Shore
F26 Delaware State
M3 at Beth.-Cookman

Hampton

N11 at Virginia Tech
N18 at Western Mich.
N20 at Eastern Michigan
N22 at Wis.-Green Bay
N25 at Radford
N29 at Norfolk State

D4 Howard

D6 Md.-Eastern Shore
D18 at Wichita State
D20 at NC-A&T
D29 Chicago State
J6 at Morgan State
J8 at Coppin State
J13 Delaware State
J15 William & Mary
J20 at N. Carolina A&T
J22 at South Carolina St.
J27 Bethune-Cookman
J29 at Florida A&M
J31 at Central Florida
F3 at Md.-East. Shore
F5 at Howard
F10 Morgan State
F12 Coppin State
F17 at Delaware State
F24 South Carolina St.
F26 NC-A&T
M3 Norfolk State

Md.-Eastern Shore

N22 at Northwestern
N28 at Towson
D4 at Norfolk State
D6 at Hampton
D9 at Washington St.
D13 Stony Brook
D22 at Georgetown
D30 at Md. College Park
J2 at Arkansas
J6 Delaware State
J9 at Albany
J13 at Bethune
J15 Florida A&M
J20 Coppin State
J22 Morgan State
J27 at N. Carolina A&T
J29 South Carolina St.
J31 at Howard

Howard

N17 Cal-Irvine
N19 Cal. St-Northridge
N24-25 at George Washington Tourn.
N29 at VMI
D2 VMI
D4 Hampton Univ.
D6 at Norfolk St.
D12 at American Univ.
D16 at Georgetown
J3 at Memphis
J8 Delaware State
J13 at Florida A&M
J15 at Beth. Cookman
J20 Morgan State

J22 Coppin State

J27 S. Carolina State
J29 N. Carolina A&T
J31 Md.-Eastern Shore
F3 Norfolk St.
F5 Hampton Univ.
F12 at Delaware State
F17 Florida A&M
F19 Bethune Cookman
F24 at Morgan State
F26 at Coppin State
M1 Md.-Eastern Shore

Md.-Eastern Shore

N22 at Northwestern
N28 at Towson
D4 at Norfolk State
D6 at Hampton
D9 at Washington St.
D13 Stony Brook
D22 at Georgetown
D30 at Md. College Park
J2 at Arkansas
J6 Delaware State
J9 at Albany
J13 at Bethune
J15 Florida A&M
J20 Coppin State
J22 Morgan State
J27 at N. Carolina A&T
J29 South Carolina St.
J31 at Howard
F3 Hampton
F5 Norfolk State
F10 at Delaware St.
F12 Stony Brook
F17 Bethune Cookman
F19 Florida A&M

F24 at Coppin State

F26 at Morgan State
M1 Howard

Morgan State

N18-20 Battle of Balt.
N25 Coppin State
D4 at Bethune Cook.
D6 at Florida A&M
D21 at San Diego St.
D23 at Georgia Tech
D30 at Florida State
J3 at Iona
J6 Hampton
J8 Norfolk State
J15 South Carolina St.
J20 at Howard
J22 at Md.-East. Shore
J27 at James Madison
J29 at Delaware St.
TBA at Georgetown
F3 Florida A&M
F5 Bethune-Cookman
F10 at Hampton
F12 at Norfolk State
F17 at N. Carolina A&T
F19 at S. Carolina St.
F24 Howard
F26 Md.-Eastern Shore
F28 N. Carolina A&T
M2 at Coppin State

Norfolk State

N18 at American
N21 at New Orleans
N25 at LSU
N29 Hampton
D4 at Seton Hall

D6 Howard

D9 UNC Greensboro
D17 at Maine
D23 at Maryland
D28 at San Diego State
D30 at Fresno State
J6 at Coppin State
J8 at Morgan State
J15 Delaware State
J20 at S. Carolina State
J22 at N. Carolina A&T
J27 Florida A&M
J29 at Beth.-Cookman
F3 at Howard
F5 at Md.-East. Shore
F10 Coppin State
F12 Morgan State
F15 Md. Eastern Shore
F19 at Delaware State
F24 N. Carolina A&T
F26 South Carolina ST
M3 at Hampton
M5-10 Meac Tourn.

North Carolina A&T

N17 at Pittsburgh
N19 at Duquesne
N28 VCU (Minneapolis)
D1 Texas So. (Minn.)
D6 at Delaware St.
D8 Elon
J6 Florida A&M
J8 Bethune-Cookman
J14 at N. Carolina Cent.
J15 at Coppin State
J17 NC-Greensboro
J20 Hampton
J22 Norfolk State
J27 Md.-Eastern Shore
J29 at Howard

F1 at SC State

F5 Delaware State
F10 at Florida A&M
F12 at Bethune-Cook.
F17 Morgan State
F19 Coppin State
F24 at Norfolk State
F26 at Hampton
F28 at Morgan State
M3 SC State

South Carolina State

N17-19 All-America Cl.
N20 Tennessee Tech
N25 at S. Carolina
D2 at Wake Forest
D4 at Delaware State
D9 Air Force
D18 at Citadel
D23 at Oregon State
D26 at Oregon
D28 at Fresno State
J6 Bethune-Cookman
J8 Florida A&M
J13 at Coppin State
J15 at Morgan State
J20 Norfolk State
J27 Howard
J29 at Md.-East. Shore
F1 North Carolina A&T
F3 Delaware State
F10 at Bethune-Cook.
F12 at Florida A&M
F17 Coppin State
F19 Morgan State
F24 at Hampton
F26 at Norfolk State
M3 at N. Carolina A&T

Southwestern Athletic

RANK
27

1 ALABAMA STATE

National Rank: 221

Coach: Rob Spivery (43-69, 4 years; 217-214, 15 years).

1999-2000 record: 13-15, SWAC: 10-8/T4th.

Key players: Tyrone Levett, F, 6-5/Jr. (14.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg); Joey Ball, G, 6-2/Jr. (14.9 ppg); Tobarie Burton, PG, 6-1/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 4.1 apg).

Outlook: All five starters return, including All-SWAC candidates Levett and Ball. Alabama State finished at or near the top in most league defensive categories last season but struggled to score. Spivery has promised a more up-tempo attack in hopes of getting more easy baskets, which could turn some of last year's close losses into wins.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Montgomery, Ala. **Home court:** Reed Acadome (8,000).

2 ALABAMA A&M

National Rank: 232

Coach: L. Vann Pettaway (309-110, 14 years).

1999-2000 record: 18-10, SWAC: 14-4/T2nd.

Key players: Desmond Cambridge, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 2.3 spg); Damien Crayton, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 1.4 spg); Dwayn Harris, G, 5-10/So. (6.5 ppg, 2.1 spg).

Outlook: A&M, still adjusting from D-II to D-I, isn't eligible to win the regular-season title or a postseason tournament. But the Bulldogs have the experience to make life tough on opponents. Returners include Crayton, Cambridge and Harris, a JC transfer, should add offense.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Huntsville, Ala. **Home court:** Elmore Gym (6,000).

BY MARK ALEXANDER

The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Miss.)

All-SWAC

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Courtney Henderson, Southern	6-2	175	Sr.
G	Gregory Burks, Prairie View	5-8	145	Jr.
F	Marcus Fleming, Alcorn State	6-8	215	Sr.
C	Henry Jordan, Miss. Valley State	6-10	220	Sr.
F	Tyrone Levett, Alabama State	6-5	215	Jr.

Player of the Year

Marcus Fleming, F, Alcorn State

Newcomer of the Year

KeShawn Hampton, F, Alabama A&M

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Courtney Henderson, Southern

Best rebounder: Marcus Fleming, Alcorn State

Best playmaker: Gregory Burks, Prairie View

Best defender: Desmond Cambridge, Alabama A&M

Best leaper: Brian Johnson, Southern

Most versatile: Dante Thornton, Mississippi Valley State

Most flamboyant: Gregory Burks, Prairie View

Best NBA prospect: Marcus Fleming, Alcorn State

3 ALCORN STATE

National Rank: 237

Coach: Davey L. Whitney (460-249, 24 years; 515-312 overall, 29 years; 3-5 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-10. SWAC: 15-3/1st.

Key players: Marcus Fleming, F, 6-8/Sr. (16.6 ppg, 7.9 rpg); Walter Harper, C, 6-8/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Jeff Cammon, G, 5-11/Sr.

Outlook: Several key components are gone from a squad that won a second straight league title. But preseason Player of the Year Fleming returns, and you can never underestimate legendary coach Whitney.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Lorman, Miss. **Home court:** Whitney Complex (7,000).

4 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

National Rank: 274

Coach: Lafayette Stribling (237-256, 17 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 7-21. SWAC: 7-11/7th.

Key players: Dewayne Jefferson, G, 6-3, Sr. (17.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg); Henry Jordan, C, 6-10, Sr. (9.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Dante Thornton, G/F, 6-7, Sr. (8.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg).

Outlook: MVSU is coming off a disappointing season in which it lost eight of its last 10. The nucleus of last year's team returns, led by the high-scoring Jefferson. The key to success could be standout Thornton.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Itta Bena, Miss. **Home court:** Harrison Complex (5,500).

5 PRAIRIE VIEW

National Rank: 276

Coach: Elwood Plummer (134-299, 10 years; 310-405 overall, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 7-21. SWAC: 5-13/7th.

Key players: Gregory Burks, G, 5-8/Jr. (18.5 ppg, 4.4 apg); Xavier Lee, F, 6-4/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Sadit Montgomery, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.8 ppg); Ivan Coulter, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.8 ppg, 6.6 rpg); Roderick Riley, C, 6-9/Sr. (4.0 ppg).

Outlook: With Plummer returning four starters, including

Burks, this should be the year for the Panthers to rise in the standings. Plummer also added six players, the best being Jamar Miles, a transfer from Alabama A&M.

Last league title: 1962.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Prairie View, Texas. **Home court:** Baby Dome (5,000).

6 SOUTHERN

National Rank: 282

Coach: Tommy Green (62-48, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 18-11. SWAC: 14-4/2nd.

Key players: Devan Clark, G, 6-0/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 3.1 apg); Courtney Henderson, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.6 ppg); Shannon Bennett, F, 6-6/Sr.

Outlook: The Jaguars return one of the league's best starting backcourts in Clark and Henderson. But they will be hard-pressed to rise in the standings unless some of the team's six newcomers contribute right away.

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Home court:** Clark Center (7,500).

7 TEXAS SOUTHERN

National Rank: 286

Coach: Robert Moreland (393-328, 25 years; 665-404 overall, 37 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 15-14. SWAC: 10-8/4th.

Key players: Chris Miller, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 7.6 rpg); Ricky Bennett, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.8 ppg); Rahmeen Underwood, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg); RaKim Hollis, G, 6-3/Sr.

Outlook: The bad news is the team lost its top scorers. The good news is it has a young, talented nucleus that includes Miller, last season's Newcomer of the Year, and RaKim Hollis, who returns after sitting out last season.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Houston. **Home court:** Health and PE Arena (8,100).

8 JACKSON STATE

National Rank: 298

Coach: Andy Stoglin (171-156, 11 years; 204-179 overall, 13 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 17-16. SWAC: 10-8/4th. Lost to Arizona in NCAA West first round.

Key players: Richard Bradley, F, 6-4/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg); Roy Dixon, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (8.8 ppg); Cliff Walker, F, 6-5/Sr.; Leonard Taylor, F, 6-7/Sr.

Outlook: Not many players return from the Tigers' run to last season's NCAA Tournament. With the loss of its top three scorers, expect Jackson State to go from an inside, power-oriented team to more of a perimeter team.

Last league title: 1996 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Jackson, Miss. **Home court:** Williams Athletics & Assembly Center (8,000).

9 ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF

National Rank: 313

Coach: Harold Blevins (33-96, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-21. SWAC: 5-13/8th.

Key players: Jeremy Jefferson, F, 6-7/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 6.6 rpg); Derion Gipson, G, 6-3/Sr.; Micheal Vickers, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.8 ppg).

Outlook: Blevins, whose team struggled to score last year, will be counting on Jefferson for as much offense as possible. The coach is high on several newcomers, including G Ronnie Jenkins and F Antwan Emsweller.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Pine Bluff, Ark. **Home court:** HPER Complex (4,500).

10 GRAMBLING STATE

National Rank: 316

Coach: Larry Wright (1-30, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 1-30. SWAC: 0-18/10th.

Key players: Alfred Parker, G, 5-9/Jr. (12.4 ppg, 6.0 apg); Mike Daniels, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg); Keith Howell, G, 6-0/Sr.

Outlook: Grambling was widely regarded as the worst D-1 team last season, so almost anything would be considered an improvement. Parker, the league's leading assist man a year ago, highlights the returnees. Wright has brought in six new players, led by F Paul Haynes.

Last league title: 1989 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Grambling, La. **Home court:** Memorial Gym (4,000).

Schedules

Alabama A&M N18 Jacksonville State N25 Georgia State N28 at Wright State D2 Morris Brown D5 at UAB D8-9 Boilermaker Invit. D16 Grambling D18 Jackson State D21 at UT Martin J3 at Mississippi State J6 at Mississippi Valley St. J13 Alabama State J20 Alcorn State J22 Southern J27 at Texas Southern J29 at Prairie View A&M F1 Tenn-Martin F3 Mississippi Valley St. F5 Arkansas-Pine Bluff F10 at Alabama State F17 at Alcorn State F19 at Southern F24 Texas Southern F26 Prairie View A&M M1 at Grambling M3 at Jackson State Alabama State N17 Birm. Southern N20 at Texas Christian N25 Morris Brown N27 at Florida A&M D9 South Alabama D14 Grambling D16 Jackson State D21 at Morris Brown D30 at Alabama J6 at Ark.-Pine Bluff	J8 at Miss. Valley State J13 at Alabama A&M J20 Southern J22 Alcorn State J27 at Prairie View A&M J29 at Texas Southern F3 Arkansas-Pine Bluff F5 Mississippi Valley St. F10 Alabama A&M F17 at Southern F19 at Alcorn State F24 Prairie View A&M F26 Texas Southern M1 at Jackson State M3 at Grambling Alcorn State N17-18 Sooner Classic N21 at Southern Mississippi D2 Tougaloo College D6 at Arkansas-Little Rock D9 at Texas-El Paso D16 Texas Southern D18 Prairie View A&M D21-22 Southern Florida Trn J3 at UAB J6 at Jackson State J8 at Grambling J13 Mississippi Valley State J15 Arkansas-Pine Bluff J20 at Alabama A&M J22 at Alabama State J27 Southern F3 Jackson State F5 Grambling F10 at Mississippi Valley St. F12 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff F17 Alabama A&M F19 Alabama State	F24 at Southern M1 at Texas Southern M3 at Prairie View Arkansas-Pine Bluff N18 at Mississippi N22 at Baylor N25 at Alabama N27 at New Mexico State N29 at UTEP D4 at SMU D6 at Drake D12 at Ark.-Little Rock D16 Miss. Valley State D30 at TCU J6 Alabama State J8 Alabama A&M J13 at Southern J18 at Alcorn State J20 Texas Southern J22 Prairie View A&M J27 at Grambling J29 at Jackson State F3 at Alabama State F5 at Alabama A&M F10 Southern F12 Alcorn State F17 at Texas Southern F19 at Prairie View A&M F24 Grambling F26 Jackson State M3 at Mississippi Valley Grambling N20 Wiley College N27 Texas College D1 Paul Quinn College D4 at Alabama D9 at Georgetown	D14 at Alabama State D16 at Alabama A&M D19 at Baylor D23 at Eastern Michigan D30 at Arkansas J6 Southern J8 Alcorn State J13 at Prairie View A&M J15 at Texas Southern J20 Jackson State J24 at TCU J27 Ark.-Pine Bluff J29 Miss. Valley St. F3 at Southern F5 at Alcorn State F10 Prairie View A&M F12 Texas Southern F17 at Jackson State F24 at Ark.-Pine Bluff F26 at Mississippi Valley M1 Alabama A&M M3 Alabama State Jackson State N20 at Arkansas State N22 at Arkansas D5 Southern Mississippi D9 at Louisiana Tech D16 at Alabama State D18 at Alabama A&M D20 at Mississippi State D27-28 Sun. Carnival Cla. J2 at Mississippi J6 Alcorn State J8 Southern J13 at Texas Southern J15 at Prairie View A&M J20 at Grambling J27 Mississippi Valley	J29 Arkansas-Pine Bluff F3 at Alcorn State F5 at Southern F10 Texas Southern F12 Prairie View A&M F17 Grambling F24 at Miss. Valley State F26 Ark.-Pine Bluff M1 Alabama State M3 Alabama A&M Miss. Valley State N17 at Oregon N21 at Mississippi State N25 Drake N29 Southeast Missouri St. D2 at Northwestern D9 at Delta State D16 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff D23 at Creighton J6 Alabama A&M J8 Alabama State J13 at Alcorn State J15 at Southern J20 Prairie View A&M J22 Texas Southern J24 Delta State J27 at Jackson State J29 at Grambling F3 at Alabama A&M F5 at Alabama State F10 Alcorn State F12 Southern F17 at Prairie View A&M F19 at Texas Southern F24 Jackson State F26 Grambling M3 Arkansas-Pine Bluff Prairie View A&M	N18 Northern Iowa N21 at Texas A&M-C. Christi N28 Maine D2 Texas College D5 at Tulane D7 at Wright State D9 at Dayton D16 at Alcorn State D18 at Southern D28 at Texas Tech J4 at Northern Iowa J13 Grambling State J15 Jackson State J20 at Mississippi Valley St. J22 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff J27 Alabama State J29 Alabama A&M J31 Texas A&M-C. Christi F3 at Texas Southern F6 Texas Southern F10 at Grambling State F12 at Jackson State F17 Mississippi Valley St. F19 Arkansas-Pine Bluff F24 at Alabama State F26 at Alabama A&M M1 Southern M3 Alcorn State Southern N21 Northwestern State N28 at New Orleans D1-2 Cyclone Challenge D9 Centenary D16 Texas Southern D18 Prairie View A&M D21 SE Louisiana D30 at Tulane J6 at Grambling	J8 at Jackson State J13 Ark.-Pine Bluff J15 Mississippi Valley J20 at Alabama State J22 at Alabama J28 at Alcorn State F3 at Grambling F5 Jackson State F10 at Ark.-Pine Bluff F12 at Mississippi Valley F17 Alabama State F19 Alabama A&M F24 Alcorn State M1 Prairie View A&M M3 at Texas Southern Texas Southern N18 Lamar N24 at Iowa State N26 at Illinois D9 at LSU D16 at Southern D18 at Alcorn State D21 Louisiana Tech D23 at Houston J2 at Baylor J13 Jackson State J15 Grambling J20 at Ark.-Pine Bluff J22 at Mississippi Valley J27 Alabama A&M J29 Alabama State F3 Prairie View A&M F6 at Prairie View A&M F10 at Jackson State F12 Grambling F17 Ark.-Pine Bluff F19 Mississippi Valley F24 at Alabama A&M
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Big South

RANK
28

1 WINTHROP National Rank: 183

Coach: Gregg Marshall (42-17, 2 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 21-9. Big South: 11-3/2nd. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA West 1st round.

Key players: Greg Lewis, F, 6-6/Sr. (15.7 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 37.9 3%); Roger Toxey, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 1.2 spg); Eyo Effiong, C, 6-9/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg).

Outlook: You have to admire the daring Eagles' openly talking of a "Three-Peat." Under Marshall, Winthrop became the first Big South school to make back-to-back trips to the NCAA tourney. Lewis, the Big South tourney MVP, is the featured act in the intense package of multiple offenses and defenses Marshall brought from the College of Charleston, where he was an assistant under John Kresse. The Marshall plan for replacing three-time All-Big South point guard Tyson Waterman includes candidates Pierre Wooten, ex-Clemson walk-on Tywan Harris and freshman Bryant Latimer.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Rock Hill, S.C. **Home court:** Winthrop Coliseum (6,100).

2 RADFORD National Rank: 193

Coach: Ron Bradley (159-99, 9 years; 255-150 overall, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record)

1999-2000 record: 18-10. Big South: 12-2/1st.

Key players: Jason Williams, F, 6-6/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 37.8 3%, 6.5 rpg); Raymond Arrington, G, 6-3/So. (14.6 ppg, 37.2 3%, 1 spg); Correy Watkins, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 1.2 spg); Nosa Obasuyi, C, 6-10/Jr. (1.6 bpg).

Outlook: Bradley has a reputation for stressing academics, graduation and a well-balanced offense. Maybe more people will notice this season—the home attendance average was 301 last year—as Radford takes vengeful aim at Winthrop. Post players Obasuyi of Nigeria and Andrey Savchenko of Russia must take more pressure off Big South leading scorer Williams and potentially dazzling guard Arrington. A key to canceling Winthrop's NCAA reservation: avoiding last season's injury bug.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Radford, Va. **Home court:** Dedmon Center (5,000).

3 UNC ASHEVILLE National Rank: 254

Coach: Eddie Biedenbach (59-56, 4 years; 88-107 overall, 7 years)

1999-2000 record: 11-19. Big South: 7-7/3rd.

Key players: Andre Smith, G, 6-2/So. (11.3 ppg, 1.7 spg, 37.7 3%, 79.6 FT%); Brett Carey, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 80 FT%, 44.3 3%); Ben Ezell, F, 6-7/Sr. (4 ppg, 93.1 FT%, 47.7 FG%); Adam Earnhardt, C, 7-0/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 54.1 FG%).

Outlook: As a freshman Smith enjoyed perhaps the most dynamic debut in program history. Smith and marksman Carey give the Bulldogs a backcourt as difficult to defend as any in the league. The versatile Smith showed off the most underrated part of his game with superb defense against Winthrop's Tyson Waterman in the Big South Tournament title game. Biedenbach firmly believes a tough pre-Big South schedule pays off in March, and it almost worked in 2000. With High Point and Elon inelig-

ble, UNC Asheville should enter the conference tournament as no lower than the No. 3 seed.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Asheville, N.C. **Home court:** Justice Center (1,100); Asheville Civic Center (6,000).

4 HIGH POINT National Rank: 270

Coach: Jerry Steele (432-353, 28 years; 583-427 overall, 36 years).

1999-2000 record: 11-17. Big South: 5-9/6th.

Key players: Mantas Ignatavicius, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 7.2 rpg); Derek Van Weerdhuizen, G, 6-4/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg); Anthony Jackson, G, 6-2/Jr. (11.1 ppg).

Outlook: The Panthers (and Elon) aren't eligible for the Big South Tournament or the league's automatic NCAA Tournament spot until 2002 but showed they belong in going 5-9 over a Big South schedule. Losing center George Cullen, who returned to Australia, was a big blow. Ignatavicius probably was High Point's most valuable player last year. He is a forward playing point guard, a creative playmaker who shoots well and defends. Steele hinted that he might retire but is back for at least one more season. Kentucky is part of a tough non-conference schedule.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997 (Division II).

Site: High Point, N.C. **Home court:** Millis Athletic Center (2,565).

5 ELON National Rank: 275

Coach: Mark Simons (75-118, 7 years; 170-220 overall, 14 years).

1999-2000 record: 13-15. Big South: 7-7/3rd.

Key players: Key players: Brendon Rowell, G, 6-3/Jr. (14.3 ppg, 41.1 3%, 1.9 spg); Andrew Toole, G, 6-2/Jr. (14.6 ppg, 37.4 3%, 84.8 FT%).

Outlook: Junior guards Rowell and Toole will keep foes busy in the backcourt, but Elon desperately needs rebounding from a tenderfoot frontcourt to repeat the 7-7 Big South mark of 2000 (the Phoenix, if eligible, would have been the third seed in the conference tournament). The biggest offseason change? A new nickname. No more 'Fightin' Christians. Phoenix was chosen to represent school spirit that was apparent after a 1923 fire destroyed many buildings on campus. For Elon to keep rising, a committee will have to fill in for departed forward Clint Walker, the league's leading rebounder.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Elon, N.C. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (2,000).

6 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN National Rank: 277

Coach: Jim Platt (first year; 56-59 overall, 4 years).

1999-2000 record: 8-21. Big South: 3-11/8th.

Key players: Nick Mitchell, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.6 spg, 1.4 bpg); O.J. Linney, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.3 spg); Mladen Karanovic, F, 6-7, So.

Outlook: There's new enthusiasm at Charleston Southern, and his name is Jim Platt, who was hired away from the Florida State staff to replace the fired Tom Conrad. Platt, 49, worked under Steve Robinson at Florida State and Tulsa and has the first multiyear contract given to any coach in any sport at Charleston Southern. Expect his team to play energetic defense and take advantage of athletic wing players Mitchell and Linney, a pair of senior staples. Karanovic came on late in the season and is an intriguing frontcourt prospect.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** CSU Fieldhouse (1,500).

BY GENE SAPAKOFF

Charleston (S.C.) Post and Courier

All-Big South

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Andre Smith, UNC Asheville	6-2	180	So.
G	Mantas Ignatavicius, High Point	6-3	215	Jr.
C	Eyo Effiong, Winthrop	6-9	235	Jr.
F	Jason Williams, Radford	6-6	190	Sr.
F	Greg Lewis, Winthrop	6-6	205	Sr.

Player of the Year

Jason Williams, F, Radford

Newcomer of the Year

J.R. Nicholas, G, Liberty

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Brett Carey, UNC Asheville

Best rebounder: Greg Lewis, Winthrop

Best playmaker: Beau Wallace, Liberty

Best defender: Nick Mitchell, Charleston Southern

Best leaper: Jason Williams, Radford

Most versatile: Andre Smith, UNC Asheville

Most flamboyant: Jason Williams, Radford

Best NBA prospect: Andre Smith, UNC Asheville

7 COASTAL CAROLINA National Rank: 284

Coach: Pete Strickland (15-39, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-18. Big South: 7-7/T3rd.

Key players: Torrey Butler, F, 6-3/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 42.5 3%, 1.9 spg); Cedric Davis, F, 6-5/Jr. (4.0 rpg, 5.5 ppg).

Outlook: Eventually, the pictures of basketball players holding surfboards on the shores of Myrtle Beach might pay off for the school just inland in Conway. There was nice progress last season for Strickland in his second year. The sharp-shooting Chanticleers generally were picked to finish last but wound up the third seed in the Big South Tournament (only to lose to Charleston Southern). Strickland received a two-year extension. To crack the upper-division again, the Chanticleers will have to shoot even better than last season, when they led the league in 3-point field-goal percentage.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Conway, S.C. **Home court:** Kimbel Gym (1,800).

8 LIBERTY National Rank: 292

Coach: Mel Hankinson (18-37, two years; 343-313 overall, 23 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-14. Big South: 4-10/7th.

Key players: Beau Wallace, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 2.0 spg, 7.4 rpg); Maurice Watkins, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 2.3 spg); Kenneth Anaebonam, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 6.8 rpg); J.R. Nicholas, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: Another rebuilding project at the school Jerry Falwell built begins without leading scorers Carl Williams and Delawn Grandison (25.3 points per game between them). The foundation is Nicholas, a prize-catch combination guard. Liberty enjoys the best homecourt advantage in the Big South—its 3,411 fans per home game in 1999-2000 was a better average than any other two schools combined. But Wallace, who had the league's best assist-to-turnover ratio last year, must get help from a more consistent offense for Liberty to make noise.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Lynchburg, Va. **Home court:** Vines Center (9,000).

Schedules

Charleston Southern	Coastal Carolina	Elon	High Point	Liberty	UNC Asheville	Radford	Winthrop
N17 Coll. of Charleston	N18 at Jacksonville	N18 at Stetson	N19 Warren Wilson	N17 Tusculum	N18 Campbell	N17 Richmond	N10-11NABC Classic
N21 at Georgia Tech	N20 at Virginia	N21 BYU	N21 at Brown	N21 Boston U.	N21 Lenoir-Rhyne	N19 at American	N18 Belmont Abbey
N25 at N.C. State	N25 Furman	N24-26 United Air's Tr.	N25 Georgia Southern	N25 at James Madison	N25 at Mercer	N26 Hampton	N21 Campbell
N27 Stetson	N29 at Georgia	N30 Campbell	N29 Campbell	N28 at Virginia Tech	N28 at East Tenn State	N29 at James Madison	N25 at William & Mary
N29 at Furman	D2 American	D2 Davidson	D2 Bluefield	N30 Appalachian State	N30 at Tennessee	D2 at East Carolina	N27 at Nebraska
D2 Brewton-Parker	D9 at Winthrop	D4 Averett	D4 Radford	D7 Navy	D4 Western Carolina	D4 at High Point	D3 Georgia Southern
D6 UNC Charlotte	D12 at Georgetown	D6 at Virginia Tech	D7 at West Virginia	D9 Montreat	D14 at Appalachian St.	D6 Marshall	D5 at Clemson
D20 Delaware	D14 at Campbell	D8 at NC A&T	D9 Jacksonville	D16 at Towson	D19 at South Carolina	D8 E. Tennessee State	D9 Coastal Carolina
D21 Coll. of Charleston	D20 at George Mason	D16 at Evansville	D16 at Wright State	D21 at Baylor	D22 at N.C. State	D18 at Wake Forest	D16 at Marshall
D28 at Clemson	D22 The Citadel	D18 at Indiana State	D18 at Eastern Kentucky	D28 Virginia Wise	D28 at Texas	D21 at Mid Tenn State	D22 at UNC Greensboro
J6 Anderson	D3 at Clemson	D28 at Brown	D27 at Kentucky	D30 Florida Atlantic	D31 at UNC Greensboro	D29 Holiday Stores Cl.	D28 at Cleveland State
J10 at UNC Asheville	J2 at Missouri	D30 at Stony Brook	D30 at Virginia Tech	J3 at Albany	J2 Montreat	J2 at UNC Wilmington	D29 at Texas A&M
J13 at Liberty	J10 Fairleigh Dickinson	J4 Reinhardt	J3 Lees-McRae	J6 at Air Force	J6 at Florida State	J9 Concord	J10 Gardner-Webb
J15 at Radford	J13 at Radford	J6 Albany	J6 at William & Mary	J10 Elon	J10 Charleston Southern	J13 Coastal Carolina	J13 at High Point
J20 High Point	J15 at Liberty	J10 Liberty	J10 at UNC Wilmington	J13 Charleston Southern	J13 at Elon	J15 Charleston Southern	J17 at Elon
J22 Elon	J20 Elon	J13 UNC Asheville	J17 UNC Asheville	J15 Coastal Carolina	J17 at High Point	J20 Radford	J20 Liberty
J27 at Coastal Carolina	J22 High Point	J17 Winthrop	J20 at Charl. Southern	J20 Winthrop	J20 Radford	J24 Winthrop	J22 Texas A&M
J29 Birmingham South.	J27 Charleston Southern	J20 at Coastal Carolina	J22 at Coastal Carolina	J23 UNC Asheville	J23 at Liberty	J27 at Liberty	J24 at Radford
F1 Winthrop	J29 Coll. of Charleston	J27 High Point	J27 at Elon	J27 Radford	J27 at Winthrop	J31 Coastal Carolina	J27 UNC Asheville
F3 Radford	J3 at UNC Asheville	J31 at Radford	J3 Liberty	J31 at High Point	J31 Coastal Carolina	F3 Elon	F1 at Charl. Southern
F5 Liberty	F3 Liberty	F3 at UNC Asheville	F3 at Winthrop	F3 at Coastal Carolina	F3 Elon	F5 at Coastal Carolina	F3 High Point
F10 at Elon	F5 Radford	F7 at Winthrop	F7 at UNC Asheville	F5 at Charl. Southern	F7 High Point	F10 UNC Asheville	F7 Elon
F12 at High Point	F10 at High Point	F10 Charleston Southern	F10 Coastal Carolina	F10 Winthrop	F10 at Radford	F14 Radford	F10 at Liberty
F15 VMI	F12 Elon	F12 Coastal Carolina	F12 Charleston Southern	F14 at UNC Asheville	F14 Liberty	F14 at Winthrop	F14 Radford
F17 at Winthrop	F17 UNC Asheville	F17 Radford	F17 at Liberty	F17 High Point	F17 at Coastal Carolina	F17 at Elon	F17 Charleston Southern
F22 UNC Asheville	F21 Winthrop	F22 at Liberty	F21 at Radford	F22 Elon	F22 at Charl. Southern	F21 High Point	F21 at Coastal Carolina
F24 Coastal Carolina	F24 at Charl. Southern	F24 at High Point	F24 Elon	F24 at Radford	F24 Winthrop	F24 Liberty	F24 at UNC Asheville

Trans America

RANK 29 Athletic

1 GEORGIA STATE

National Rank: 123

Coach: Charles "Lefty" Driesell (50-37, 3 years; 733-372 overall, 38 years; 15-13 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 17-12. TAAC: 13-5/T1st.

Key players: Bam Campbell, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Darryl Cooper, G, 6-3/So. (transfer/LSU); Shernard Long, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 2.8 spg); Kevin Morris, G, 6-0/Sr. (12.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 5 apg, 2.1 spg); Thomas Terrell, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Panthers have the best backcourt and recruiting class in the league. And they are the home team for the conference tournament. That's why they could snap Samford's two-year postseason reign. Terrell and Campbell, as well as forward James Gilchrist should give the Panthers tremendous power in the post, which the team didn't have last year. LSU transfer Cooper makes already a deep team at guard downright scary. We know the Panthers can score, but they need to do better than allowing teams to shot 45.1 percent from the field.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** GSU Sports Arena (5,500).

2 SAMFORD

National Rank: 130

Coach: Jimmy Tillette (59-30, 3 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 21-11. TAAC: 12-6/T3rd. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA Midwest first round.

Key players: Derrick Jones, G, 6-5/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 45.5 FG%, 39.7 3%; Marc Salyers, F, 6-9/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 53.8 FG%, 38.1 3%); Chris Weaver, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 50 FG%, 87.9 FT%, 44.6 3%).

Outlook: Samford gave Tillette a pair of contract extensions

over the past year, one until 2007 and then another to 2010, so at least the coaching situation is settled. The starting lineup isn't as settled after the loss of three starters and three reserves who scored 53 percent of the team's points. But by tournament time, the Bulldogs will again be a force if they can continue to pick apart teams with their Princeton offense. Look for Jones and Weaver to have bigger impacts this season than they did last. A pair of 6-8 freshmen (Brian Keckesen and Sebastian Sachse) will be a nice addition, as well as the transfer of Akron point guard Cornell Felton.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** Seibert Hall (4,000).

3 CENTRAL FLORIDA

National Rank: 211

Coach: Kirk Speraw (100-102, 7 years).

1999-2000 record: 14-18. TAAC: 10-8/T5th

Key players: Mario Lovett, F, 6-7/Sr. (RS/foot); Paul Reed, C, 6-8/So. (11.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1.9 bpg); Jason Thornton, F, 6-5/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 86.4 FT%, 49.5 3%).

Outlook: Central Florida reached the TAAC championship game last season without two players the Golden Knights expected to take them there: Lovett and junior F Beronti Simms (knee). Lovett should be back in full force, but Simms is academically ineligible for the fall, so his return is questionable. The return of Lovett, as well as Thornton and the hard-banging Reed, means UCF will have much better balance this year. This is neither an extraordinary team nor an ordinary one—just a solid group of players.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Orlando. **Home court:** UCF Arena (5,100).

By BOB POCKRASS

Daytona Beach News-Journal

All-Trans America

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Shernard Long, Georgia State	6-4	200	Sr.
G	Kevin Morris, Georgia State	6-0	175	Sr.
F	Marc Salyers, Samford	6-9	220	Sr.
C	Scott Emerson, Mercer	6-9	245	So.
F	Sebastian Singletary, Stetson	6-5	240	Sr.

Player of the Year

Marc Salyers, F, Samford

Newcomer of the Year

Thomas Terrell, F/C, Georgia State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Adam Fellers, Campbell

Best rebounder: Scott Emerson, Mercer

Best playmaker: Kevin Morris, Georgia State

Best defender: Shernard Long, Georgia State

Best leaper: Mario Lovett, Central Florida

Most versatile: Sebastian Singletary, Stetson

Most flamboyant: Donnie Davis, Georgia State

Best NBA prospect: Marc Salyers, Samford

4 TROY STATE

National Rank: 224

Coach: Don Maestri (297-210, 18 years).

1999-2000 record: 17-11. TAAC: 13-5/T1st.

Key players: Derrick Davis, F, 6-3/Sr. (transfer/Arizona State); Matt Holman, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 46.3 FG%, 45.6 3%); Jacova Jenkins, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 55.4 FG%); Donnie Pemberton, F, 6-6/So. (7.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 48.1 FG%, 38.8 3%).

Outlook: The team has an impact newcomer this year in Davis, who Maestri says can play on the wing, at the point or inside. Davis should take the place of last year's impact newcomer, Detric Golden. With the return of three other starters, that's good news for the Trojans. The big questions are consistency and uncertainty at point guard.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Troy, Ala. **Home court:** Trojan Arena (4,000).

5 MERCER National Rank: 255

Coach: Mark Slonaker (25-60, 3 years)

1999-2000 record: 12-21. TAAC: 7-11/8th.

Key players: Wesley Duke, F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Scott Emerson, C, 6-9/So. (15.2 ppg, 8.3 rpg); Chris Hill, G, 6-3/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 82.4 FT%, 38.4 3%).

Outlook: Even for a program on its way up, a jump from eighth to fifth might be a little ambitious. But the Bears return all five starters. Each should have worked on the same thing during the offseason: shooting. The Bears shot only 41.4% from the field and 32.2% from 3-point range last season.

Duke must overcome two torn ACLs over the past two years.

Last league title: 1985.

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: Macon, Ga. **Home court:** Macon Coliseum (8,500), Porter Gym (500).

6 STETSON National Rank: 264

Coach: Murray Arnold (38-43, 3 years; 403-217 overall, 20 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 13-15. TAAC: 8-10/7th.

Key players: Derrick DeWitt, G, 6-3/So. (10.2 ppg, 36.7 3%); Ravii Givens, G, 5-9/So. (10.4 ppg, 81.2 FT%, 4.4 apg, 1.8 spg); Sebastian Singletary, F, 6-5/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 1.5 spg).

Outlook: After a disappointing season, the Hatters are one of the bigger puzzles of the TAAC. The team has four starters back to figure it out. Singletary is one of the best point players in the league, Givens is one of the best point men, and the team should improve its outside shooting with the return of guard Van Morris (leg) and recruits. Depth will be a problem, especially in the post, where Singletary and Santos Hampton (8.7 rpg) must stay out of foul trouble.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: DeLand, Fla. **Home court:** Edmunds Center (5,000).

7 JACKSONVILLE STATE National Rank: 265

Coach: Mike LaPlante (first year).

1999-2000 record: 17-11. TAAC: 12-6/T3rd

Key players: Brant Harriman, C, 6-10/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 62.4 FG%); Johnny Kilpatrick, F, 6-3/So. (7.8 ppg); Mike McDaniel, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (12.9 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 56.7 FG%).

Outlook: One of the surprise teams in the league last season, JSU might return to the lower half after losing its coach (Mark Turgeon to Wichita State) and one of its top scorers in Rashard Willie (10.8 ppg to Birmingham Southern). New coach LaPlante, who came to JSU after four years as an assistant at Auburn, returns three starters, including tough swingman McDaniel and lane stuffer Harriman. LaPlante will look to maintain the quality of the defense, which held opponents to 40 percent shooting last season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Jacksonville, Ala. **Home court:** Matthews Col. (5,500).

8 CAMPBELL National Rank: 289

Coach: Billy Lee (196-224, 15 years; 317-312 overall, 22 years).

1999-2000 record: 12-16. TAAC: 10-8/T5th.

Key players: Adam Fellers, G, 6-2/Jr. (15.7 ppg, 86.7 FT%, 40.0 3%); Damien Hannibal, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.0 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 65.7 FG%); Zydrunas Stankus, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Only two scorers who averaged more than 6 points return to a team that already was one of the least potent squads in the conference. The Camels were also the league's worst rebounding team. Fellers, an All-TAAC first-teamer, should once again provide offense from beyond the arc. Campbell won six of its nine TAAC road games last year but will be hard-pressed to duplicate that.

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Bules Creek, N.C. **Home court:** Carter Gymnasium (945).

9 JACKSONVILLE National Rank: 314

Coach: Hugh Durham (28-53, 3 years; 556-364 overall, 32 years; 8-8 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 8-19. TAAC: 5-13/9th.

Key players: Kris Hunter, C, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Virginia); Shawn Platts, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 54.1 FG%, 45 3%, 4.2 apg); Brandon Williams, G, 6-3/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 85.3 FT%, 38.6 3%).

Outlook: If the team can replace forward and leading scorer Calvin Slaughter (16.2 ppg, 6.7 rpg), the Dolphins may be able to avoid finishing in the conference basement. Seven of their 19 losses last year came by five or fewer points, but Jacksonville can't be confident it will turn that around this season. After all, it lacks what counts most in close games—defense (teams shot 48 percent against it last year) and free-throw shooting (TAAC-worst 63.2 percent). The Dolphins are hoping Hunter, a solid shot blocker, can help defensively.

Last league title: 1986 (Sun Belt).

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Jacksonville, Fla. **Home court:** Swisher Gymnasium. (1,500).

10 FLORIDA ATLANTIC National Rank: 317

Coach: Sidney Green (2-28, 1 year; 51-88 overall, 5 years).

1999-2000 record: 2-28. TAAC: 0-18/10th.

Key players: Raheim Brown, F, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/South Florida); Nick Neumann, C, 7-0/So. (transfer/Binghamton).

Outlook: The club will win a game against a Division I team earlier this season than it did last season. Of course, FAU didn't do that last season until the TAAC tournament. The Owls, who return only two players, will be better, but Green is still early in his rebuilding process. At least the Owls will have some size in Neumann and Brown, who practiced with the team last season and know the system.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Boca Raton, Fla. **Home court:** FAU Gymnasium (5,000).

Schedules

Campbell N18 at UNC Asheville N21 at Winthrop N25 at Wake Forest N28 at High Point N30 at Elon D4 Jacksonville State D14 Coastal Carolina D18 at Middle Tennessee D20 at SE Missouri State J2 Georgia State J6 at Jacksonville J8 at Stetson J11 Central Florida J13 Florida Atlantic J18 at Troy State J20 at Mercer J22 Samford J27 Troy State J29 Mercer F1 at Jacksonville St. F3 at Samford F10 at Georgia State F12 William & Mary F15 Stetson F17 Jacksonville F22 at Florida Atlantic F24 at Central Florida Central Florida N24-26 Hawaii Pacific Cl D2 at Mercer D9 at Miami D12 at Middle Tennessee D15 at South Florida D17 Wartburg D22 at UNC Wilmington D30 East Carolina J3 at Troy State J6 Jacksonville State J8 Samford J11 at Campbell	J13 at Georgia State J18 Stetson J20 Jacksonville J22 Florida Atlantic J27 at Stetson J29 at Jacksonville J31 Hampton F3 at Florida Atlantic F8 Troy State F10 Mercer F15 at Samford F17 at Jacksonville St. F22 Georgia State F24 Campbell Florida Atlantic N18 Miami N21 Hofstra N24-25 Fla. Intr'n'l Cl. N27 at Florida N30 San Diego State D2 at Troy State D9 at Virginia Comm. D18 Birm. Southern D20-22 Puerto Rico Sh't D30 at Liberty J3 at Mercer J6 Samford J8 Jacksonville State J11 at Georgia State J13 at Campbell J18 Jacksonville J20 Stetson J22 at Central Florida J27 at Jacksonville J29 at Stetson F3 Central Florida F8 Mercer F10 Troy State F15 at Jacksonville St. F17 at Samford	F22 Campbell F24 Georgia State Georgia State N17 at Georgia N20 Savannah State N25 at Alabama A&M N29 Bradley D1 Valdosta D4 Samford D6 Morris Brown D9 at Creighton D21 Hawaii* D22 UAB* D23 Cal St. Northridge* J2 at Campbell J6 at Stetson J8 at Jacksonville J11 Florida Atlantic J13 Central Florida J18 at Mercer J20 at Troy State J23 Jacksonville State J27 Mercer J29 Troy State F1 Samford F3 at Jacksonville St. F10 Campbell F15 Jacksonville F17 Stetson F22 at Central Florida F24 at Florida Atlantic *Honolulu. Jacksonville State N18 Coastal Florida N21 at Georgia Southern N27 Savannah State N29 Florida Tech D2 at Jacksonville St. D5 Troy State D9 at High Point	D17 at Florida State D21 American D28 at Savannah State D30 Lehigh J3 at Samford J6 Campbell J8 Georgia State J13 at Stetson J18 at Florida Atlantic J20 at Central Florida J22 Mercer J27 Florida Atlantic J29 Central Florida F1 at Troy State F3 at Mercer F8 Samford F10 Jacksonville State F15 at Georgia State F17 at Campbell F24 Stetson Jacksonville State N17 at Alabama A&M N19 at Auburn N21 Kentucky* D2 Jacksonville D4 at Campbell D16 Tennessee State D20-21 State Farm Cl. D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl. J3 Stetson J6 at Central Florida J8 at Florida Atlantic J11 Troy State J13 Mercer J16 Birm. Southern J20 at Samford J23 at Georgia State J27 Samford F1 Campbell F3 Georgia State F8 at Stetson	F10 at Jacksonville F15 Florida Atlantic F17 Central Florida F22 at Mercer F24 at Troy State *Cincinnati Mercer N20 at Auburn N25 UNC Asheville N29 at South Carolina D2 Central Florida D4 at Stetson D6 Savannah State D9 Georgia Southern D12 at Western Carolina D20 at Arizona State D23 at New Mexico D30 Harvard J3 Florida Atlantic J6 at Troy State J11 at Samford J13 at Jacksonville St. J18 Georgia State J20 Campbell J22 at Jacksonville J27 at Georgia State J29 at Campbell F1 Stetson F3 Jacksonville F8 at Florida Atlantic F10 at Central Florida F17 Troy State F22 Jacksonville State F24 Samford Samford N18 Louisiana-Monroe N25 Belmont N28 Xavier D2 Stetson D4 at Georgia State	D9 at Morehead State D16 Gardner-Webb D19-20 Trend Homes Cl. D29-30 Oneida Classic J3 Jacksonville J6 at Florida State J8 at Central Florida J11 Mercer J13 Troy State J20 Jacksonville State J22 at Campbell J27 at Jacksonville St. F1 Georgia State F3 Campbell F8 at Jacksonville F10 at Stetson F15 Central Florida F22 Troy State F24 at Mercer Stetson N18 Elon N21 Flagler N27 at Charleston So. D2 Samford D4 Mercer D7 at Western Carolina D9 at Furman D20 Birm.-Southern D28 at Missouri J3 at Jacksonville St. J6 Georgia State J8 Campbell J13 Jacksonville J18 at Central Florida J20 at Florida Atlantic J22 Troy State J27 Central Florida J29 Florida Atlantic F1 at Mercer F3 at Troy State F8 Jacksonville State	F10 Samford F15 at Campbell F17 at Georgia State F25 at Jacksonville Troy State N20 at Alabama N25 Maine N30 Florida A&M D2 Florida Atlantic D5 at Jacksonville D9 Nicholls State D16 Reinhardt D18 Mississippi D21-23 Pearl Harbor Cl. J2 Central Florida J6 Mercer J11 at Jacksonville St. J13 at Samford J18 Campbell J20 Georgia State J22 at Stetson J27 at Campbell J29 at Georgia State F1 Jacksonville F3 Stetson F8 at Central Florida F10 at Florida Atlantic F14 at Florida A&M F17 at Mercer F22 Samford F24 Jacksonville State
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Mid-Continent

RANK 30

1 OAKLAND

National Rank: 189

Coach: Greg Kampe (277-179, 16 years).

1999-2000 record: 13-17. Mid-Continent: 11-5/1st.

Key players: Brad Buddenberg, G, 6-5/Jr. (17.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg); Dan Champagne, F, 6-7/Jr. (18 ppg, 6.3 rpg); Jason Rozycki, G, 6-4/Jr. (15.1 ppg); Sebastien Bellin, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 5.2 rpg); Mychal Covington, G, 6-4/Jr. (6.9 ppg).

Outlook: The defending league champs are again ineligible for the Mid-Continent tournament until next season but are armed to the teeth. Five holdovers started at least 25 games and Champagne, who would have been Oakland's prime-time player, played only six games because of a broken hand. With his returning it's hard to deny the Grizzlies if they can survive a brutal non-conference schedule that includes Michigan, Michigan State, Detroit and Akron. Look for Oakland to thrive from the arc. Last year the team led the league in 3-pointers but finished last on the defensive boards. Kampe addressed that issue by recruiting Jordan Sabourin, a 7-footer from Ontario. Oakland should have the best guard tandem in the league in Buddenberg, who made all-conference, and Rozycki, who led the team in 3-pointers. Both shot better than 80 percent from the line.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Rochester, Minn. **Home court:** Student Athletic Center (3,000).

2 VALPARAISO

National Rank: 196

Coach: Homer Drew (186-169, 12 years; 455-291 overall, 24 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 19-13. Mid-Continent: 10-6/T2nd. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA Midwest first round.

Key players: Lubos Barton, F, 6-8/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 6 rpg, 3.2 apg); Milo Stovall, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.1 apg); Raitis Grafts, C, 6-10/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Jason Jenkins, F, 6-8/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 1.6 apg); Dwayne Toatley, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 1.5 apg).

Outlook: Loaded with talented newcomers, the Crusaders will be gunning for their seventh consecutive conference tournament title and sixth straight NCAA appearance. Oakland unseated them during the regular season, but Valparaiso recovered from a 1-5 league start. A core of eight veterans will be reinforced by guard Greg Tonagel, a steady influence who was medically redshirted after starting the previous year. His return, plus the departure of Ivan Vujic, who shot only 48.7 percent from the line, will bolster the team's free-throw marksmanship. Barton struggled at times but was the tournament MVP. He and Toatley, who blossomed in the second half, triggered a 12-2 finish. Look for a big step forward inside by Grafts.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.

Site: Valparaiso, Ind. **Home court:** Athletics-Recreation Center (4,500).

3 MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

National Rank: 201

Coach: Dean Demopoulos (first year).

1999-2000 record: 16-13. Mid-Continent: 10-6/T2nd.

Key players: Michael Jackson, F, 6-7/Jr. (19.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Will Palmer, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.6 apg); Matt Suther, G, 6-4/Jr. (8.7 ppg, 3.5 apg); Robby Graves, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.4 ppg).

Outlook: Seven players return who started at least 13 games last year, making this team easily the deepest and most experienced in the league. Add Jackson, the first Mid-Continent player to receive top player and newcomer of the year honors in the same season, and you understand why the Kangaroos are prepared to make a quantum leap forward. Jackson, probably the best player you never heard of, was the league scoring champion for a team that went from

8-22 to 16-13. So it was a shock when Bob Sunvold was belatedly fired. Demopoulos spent 17 years as John Chaney's assistant at Temple. Look for the 'Roos to embrace a zone philosophy and stay inside-oriented. They shot 35.3% from the arc but gave up 71 more 3-pointers than they made. Point guard Terrance Chatman, UMKC's best defender, could be the difference maker if the 'Roos make their first NCAA appearance. Palmer provides a wide body in what should be a physical lineup.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Kansas City. **Home court:** Municipal Auditorium. (9,827).

4 SOUTHERN UTAH

National Rank: 212

Coach: Bill Evans (113-117, 8 years).

1999-2000 record: 16-13. Mid-Continent: 10-6/T2nd.

Key players: Frederick House, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Jeff Monaco, G, 6-0/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 5.4 apg); Justin Sant, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.6 ppg); Chris Wallin, C, 6-11/Sr.

Outlook: Three full-time returning starters and two others with double-figure starts should keep the Thunderbirds in the title hunt. House and Monaco, who ranked 1-2 in the league in steals, are the senior anchors. House earned all-conference honors. Monaco ranked second in assists. A recruiting class that includes junior college transfers guard Brian Gardner, 6-10 center Jeff Dorenbosch and forward Dan Beus increases the excitement level. Gardner is recovering from a torn ACL in January. Beus averaged 13.7 points and 9.1 rebounds in junior college. Wallin or 6-10 John Wheeler must step up at center, where neither one has distinguished himself. The Thunderbirds, handicapped by a different time zone than the rest of the league, were 2-11 on the road, with mostly lopsided margins. They start the season with a 10-game winning streak at the Centrum.

Last league title: 1995 (America West).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Cedar City, Utah. **Home court:** Centrum (5,300).

5 YOUNGSTOWN STATE

National Rank: 233

Coach: John Robic (12-16, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 12-16. Mid-Continent: 9-7/4th.

Key players: Craig Haese, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.5 ppg); Desmond Harrison, F, 6-5/Sr. (12 ppg, 6.2 rpg); David Brown, C, 6-9/Sr. (6.3 rpg); Ryan Patton, G, 5-11/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 3.6 apg).

Outlook: Transfers Rafael Cruz, a 6-2 guard from Massachusetts, and Stephen Flores, a 6-7 forward from Pittsburgh, will be available to jump-start the Penguins. They may not need much help because five players with at least 10 starts return. Cruz can play either guard spot. A deliberate team, the Penguins treat each possession preciously. Haese, obliged to assume a scoring burden when Elmer Brown went down with an injury, should benefit from his force-fed role. Seven new players will create early togetherness problems, but it may not matter because the Penguins dropped five of their last six games. Jeff Ball, a 6-10, 220-pound junior college transfer, could relieve Brown on the boards.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Youngstown, Ohio. **Home court:** Beeghley Center (6,500).

6 IUPUI-INDIANAPOLIS

National Rank: 250

Coach: Ron Hunter (90-77, 6 years).

1999-2000 record: 7-21. Mid-Continent: 4-12/8th.

Key players: Don Carlisle, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 7.2 rpg); Charles Price, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Taj Hawkins, G, 6-1/Jr. (5 ppg).

Outlook: Now eligible for the conference tournament for the first time, the Jaguars prepared with Hunter's best recruiting class. Guards Sylvester Allen and Maurice Williams, junior college transfers, have impressive credentials. Allen

By JOHN MUTKA

Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune

All-Mid-Continent

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jeff Monaco, Southern Utah	6-0	170	Sr.
G	Brad Buddenberg, Oakland	6-5	210	Jr.
F	Lubos Barton, Valparaiso	6-8	223	Jr.
F	Michael Jackson, UMKC	6-7	215	Jr.
F	Frederick House, Southern Utah	6-5	210	Sr.

Player of the Year

Michael Jackson, F, UMKC

Newcomer of the Year

Rafael Cruz, G, Youngstown St.

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jeff Monaco, Southern Utah

Best rebounder: Darrell Johns, Chicago St.

Best playmaker: Matt Suther, UMKC

Best defender: Don Carlisle, IUPUI

Best leaper: Charles Price, IUPUI

Most versatile: Lubos Barton, Valparaiso

Most flamboyant: Frederick House, Southern Utah

Best NBA prospect: Frederick House, Southern Utah

made the All-Ohio Community College conference first team, and Williams was the league's MVP with an 18.3 scoring average. The team hopes they will help improve the assist-turnover ratio, which was last in the league. Last season the Jaguars lost three games on last-second shots. They finished with a mild flourish, winning five of their last nine. One loss in that stretch was in overtime and the other was a four-pointer to league champion Oakland. Two returning leading scorers suggest the Jaguars will be vastly improved though they lack size. Carlisle, who led the team in scoring, rebounding and steals, and Price provide a solid inside game. Hawkins, a 17-game starter, must step up from the arc. He shot 41.4 percent but attempted only 29 3-pointers.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Indianapolis. **Home court:** IUPUI Arena (2,000).

7 ORAL ROBERTS

National Rank: 281

Coach: Scott Sutton, 13-17, 1 year.

1999-2000 record: 13-17. Mid-Continent: 8-8/5th.

Key players: Kyan Brown, F, 6-7/Sr. (3.9 ppg, 3.8 rpg); Josh Atkinson, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.3 ppg).

Outlook: The Golden Eagles return just 10.2 points per game. All five starters departed. Evan Black, who logged mini-minutes, and Brown, a wide body at 240 pounds, are the only seniors. The defense, which ranked eighth in the league, must improve. With 10 newcomers, Sutton will need the preseason to develop chemistry. Five players 6-8 or taller, including 7-footer Charlie Ludwig and 6-10 Lyndric Washington, were signed. Last season the tallest player on the team was 6-6. But put this down as an obvious rebuilding year.

Last league title: 1984 (Midwestern Collegiate).

Last NCAA appearance: 1984.

Site: Tulsa, Okla. **Home court:** Mabee Center (10,575).

8 CHICAGO STATE

National Rank: 285

Coach: Bo Ellis (13-42, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-18. Mid-Continent: 7-9/7th.

Key players: Darrell Johns, C, 7-1/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 2.0 bpg); Terrence West, G, 6-0/Jr.; Andre Wiggins, F, 6-4/Jr.; Tony Jones, F, 6-8/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 35.9 3%).

Outlook: The Cougars took a step forward last season, posting their best record since joining the Mid-Continent, but they faded down the stretch. They must make a concerted effort to go inside to Johns, who led the league in rebounds and blocked shots. He is their only returning full-time starter, though Wiggins and West have played quality

minutes. West will take over at the point for Jermaine Hicks but needs to improve his outside shooting (he hit 11-of-46 3-point attempts) to relieve the pressure on Johns. Opponents learned to foul Johns, and he shot only 57.6 percent from the line, helping make the Cougars the league's worst free-throw shooting team. Look for Jones to step up. He started seven games before breaking his hand.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Dickens Athletic Center (2,500).

9 WESTERN ILLINOIS

National Rank: 312

Coach: Jim Kerwin (111-114, 8 years).
1999-2000 record: 8-22. Mid-Continent: 3-13/9th.

Key players: Bill Heisler, G, 6-0/Sr. (10.3 ppg); Matt Robins, G, 6-0/So. (6.7 ppg); Cory Fosdyck, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.1 ppg).

Outlook: Hoping to rebound from his first losing season in six years, Kerwin recruited six players, including junior college transfers Brian Williams and Quentin Mitchell, who led Schoolcraft College to a 24-7 record and the Michigan

CCAA title. All-conference rebounding champ Juan Martinez, the Leathernecks' leading scorer, will be missed. Western's backcourt of Heisler and Robins, both potent 3-point shooters, is intact. Recruits Ryan Shriver (6-8) and Karl Peterson (6-9) join 6-11 Kristjan Makke, Western's only experienced big man who has two starts in 29 appearances. The Leathernecks may not be gung-ho enough to rebound from their worst season since 1968.

Last league title: 1993

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Macomb, Ill. **Home court:** Western Hall (5,128).

Schedules

Chicago State N22 Detroit N25 at Illinois State N29 Loyola of Chicago D2 Oakland D4 Wisconsin-Milwaukee D9 at DePaul D16 Lakeland D20 at Eastern Michigan D23 at Illinois-Chicago D27 at Maryland D29 at Hampton J4 at Southern Utah J6 at UNLV J11 Oral Roberts J13 UMKC J18 at Oakland J20 at Youngstown State J25 Valparaiso J27 at Western Illinois F1 Youngstown State F3 Southern Utah F8 at IUPUI F10 Western Illinois F15 at UMKC F17 at Oral Roberts F22 IUPUI F24 at Valparaiso IUPUI N18 Wilberforce N22 at Ball State N25 at Austin Peay N27 Indiana Southeast D2 Middle Tenn. State D6 at Eastern Michigan D9 at Wichita State D16 Austin Peay D20 Indiana State	D23 at Illinois State D30 at Bradley J4 Valparaiso J6 Youngstown State J13 at Oakland J18 at Oral Roberts J20 at Southern Utah J25 Oakland J27 at Youngstown State F1 UMKC F3 Oral Roberts F8 Chicago State F10 Southern Utah F12 Western Illinois F17 at Valparaiso F22 at Chicago State F24 at Western Illinois F27 at UMKC Mo.-Kansas City N17 at Morris Brown N21 Oklahoma State N24-26 Mountain Energy Tr. N29 Delaware State D2 Southern Utah D8-9 Husker Classic D16 Texas-Arlington D20 at SW Missouri St. D30 at Ark.-Little Rock J4 at Youngstown State J6 Oakland J11 at Western Illinois J13 at Chicago State J20 Valparaiso J25 at Southern Utah J27 at Oral Roberts F1 at IUPUI F3 at Valparaiso F8 Western Illinois	F12 Morris Brown F15 Chicago State F17 Youngstown State F22 Oral Roberts F24 at Oakland F27 IUPUI Oakland N17 Michigan N19 at Michigan State N21 Ferris State N25 Akron N30 Youngstown State D2 at Chicago State D5 at Detroit D9 Cleveland State D11 at Cincinnati D16 at Toledo D22 Ohio University D27 Wright State D30 at Western Michigan J4 at Oral Roberts J6 at UMKC J11 Southern Utah J13 IUPUI J18 Chicago State J20 Western Illinois J25 at IUPUI J27 at Valparaiso F3 at Western Illinois F5 Concordia F10 Oral Roberts F15 Valparaiso F17 at Southern Utah F22 at Youngstown State F24 UMKC Oral Roberts N18 Nebraska N21 Southwest Baptist	N25 Southern Arkansas N30 Southern Utah D2 Youngstown State D5 at Northwestern State D10 at Tulsa D15 at Drake D18 at Northwestern State D21 Texas Tech D28-29 All-College Tr. J4 Oakland J6 Valparaiso J11 at Chicago State J13 at Western Illinois J18 IUPUI J27 UMKC F1 at Valparaiso F3 at IUPUI F8 at Youngstown State F10 at Oakland F15 Western Illinois F17 Chicago State F22 at UMKC F24 at Southern Utah Southern Utah N17 at Arizona State N20 Weber State N25 Idaho State N27 Southern Virginia N30 at Oral Roberts D2 at UMKC D6 Sacramento State D9 at Montana D14 at Brigham Young D19 Western Oregon D22 at Utah D30 at Idaho State J4 Chicago State J6 Western Illinois	J11 at Oakland J13 at Youngstown State J18 Valparaiso J20 IUPUI J25 UMKC J27 at UC Riverside F1 at Western Illinois F3 at Chicago State F8 at Valparaiso F10 at IUPUI F15 Youngstown State F17 Oakland F24 Oral Roberts Valparaiso N18 Indiana-South Bend N22-25 Great Alaska Sh'out N29 at Wis.-Milwaukee D2 UNC Wilmington D4 Belmont D7 Tex. A&M-Corp. Christi D9 at Rhode Island D16 Purdue* D22 Cal State-Fullerton D28-29 Hoosier Classic J4 at IUPUI J6 at Oral Roberts J11 Youngstown State J18 at Southern Utah J20 at UMKC J25 at Chicago State J27 Oakland J29 Western Illinois F1 Oral Roberts F3 UMKC F8 Southern Utah F10 at Youngstown State F15 at Oakland F17 IUPUI	F22 at Western Illinois F24 Chicago State *Indianapolis Western Illinois N18 at Montana State N20 at Creighton N25 Augustana N27 at Eastern Illinois D1-2 Cyclone Challenge D6 Montana State D9 Indiana State D20 at Bradley D23 at Drake D31 Illinois State J3 St. Ambrose J6 at Southern Utah J11 UMKC J13 Oral Roberts J18 at Youngstown State J20 at Oakland J25 Youngstown State J27 Chicago State J29 at Valparaiso F1 Southern Utah F3 Oakland F8 at UMKC F10 at Chicago State F12 at IUPUI F15 at Oral Roberts F22 Valparaiso F24 IUPUI Youngstown State N18 at St. Francis (Pa.) N20 Slippery Rock N25 Clarion University N28 Western Michigan N30 at Oakland D2 at Oral Roberts	D6 at Toledo D9 at Cincinnati D16 Detroit D20-22 Puerto Rico Sh'out D29-30 Oneida Classic J2 at Robert Morris J4 UMKC J6 at IUPUI J11 at Valparaiso J13 Southern Utah J18 Western Illinois J20 Chicago State J25 at Western Illinois J27 IUPUI F1 at Chicago State F8 Oral Roberts F10 Valparaiso F15 at Southern Utah F17 at UMKC F22 Oakland
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Patriot

RANK
31

1 NAVY

National Rank: 118

Coach: Don DeVoe (142-86, 8 years; 470-314 overall, 27 years; 5-10 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 23-6. Patriot: 11-1/T1st.

Key players: Chris Williams, F, 6-4/Sr. (15.0 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 1.9 spg); Robert Reeder, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Scott Long, F, 6-6/So. (5.4 ppg); John Williams, F, 6-5/Sr. (6.7 ppg); Reggie Skipworth, G, 6-1/Sr. (5.4 ppg).

Outlook: Experience and frontcourt talent abound, led by versatile swingman Williams. Reeder and Long should pick up the stray boards available now that standout Sitapha Savane has graduated. The key is the guard line.

If some depth emerges behind Skipworth and sophomore Jason Jeanpierre, the Midshipmen could run away with the league. Expect more great defense from DeVoe's system.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Annapolis, Md. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (5,710).

2 LAFAYETTE

National Rank: 145

Coach: Fran O'Hanlon (83-61, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 24-7. Patriot: 11-1/T1st. Lost to

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

Free-lance writer from Philadelphia

All-Patriot

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tyson Whitfield, Lafayette	6-4	175	Sr.
G	Chris Spatola, Army	5-11	150	Jr.
C	Josh Sankes, Holy Cross	7-1	255	Sr.
F	Chris Williams, Navy	6-4	210	Sr.
F	Pat Campolieta, Colgate	6-6	220	Jr.

Player of the Year

Chris Williams, F, Navy

Newcomer of the Year

Jeremiah Bennett, F, Bucknell

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Tyson Whitfield, Lafayette
Best rebounder: Josh Sankes, Holy Cross
Best playmaker: Chris Spatola, Army
Best defender: Pat Campolieta, Colgate
Best leaper: Tyson Whitfield, Lafayette
Most versatile: Chris Williams, Navy

Temple in NCAA East first round.

Key players: Tyson Whitfield, G, 6-4/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 42.7 3%, 1.7 spg); Tim Bieg, G, 5-11/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 1.8 spg); Frank Barr, C, 6-11/Sr. (6.2 ppg 1.8 bpg); Brian Burke, G, 6-5/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 43.9 3%); Rob Worthington, F, 6-6/Jr. **Outlook:** The program is so healthy it can lose a two-time Patriot Player of the Year (Brian Ehlers) and a one-time winner of the same award (Stefan Ciosici) and still be considered a serious title contender. Lafayette fans had better hope talented coach O'Hanlon isn't the next to go. Stepping up for the dearly departed will be the ace backcourt of Whitfield, a flashy off-guard with a great shooting eye, and steady point guard Bieg, another good marksman. Expect Burke to become more productive at small forward now that Ehlers is gone. Barr has the potential to be a productive pivot. The bench is deep. The success continues.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Easton, Pa. **Home court:** Allan P. Kirby Sports Center (3,500).

3 HOLY CROSS

National Rank: 176

Coach: Ralph Willard (10-18 1 year; 154-142 overall, 10 years).

1999-2000 record: 10-18. Patriot: 3-9/T5th.

Key players: Josh Sankes, C, 7-1/Sr. (14 ppg, 12 rpg); Tim Szatko, F, 6-7/So. (11.5 ppg, 6 rpg); Ryan Serravalle, G, 6-0/Jr. (9 ppg).

Outlook: The Crusaders built depth the hard way last season, when forward Juan Pegues, Serravalle, junior Patrick Whearty and forward Jared Curry all suffered serious injuries that left them sidelined for most or all of the season. That allowed Sankes, a Rutgers transfer, to emerge as a major interior force and helped Szatko to become the Patriot Rookie of the Year. Everybody is back and healthy, so the team should be loaded at every position. Expect to see Sankes and Whearty together in a "gruesome twosome" pivot package. Freshman point Jave Meade likely will run the show, while Szatko and Serravalle provide the outside punch. Now in their second year of offering scholarships, the Crusaders could be ready to make a move.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Worcester, Mass. **Home court:** Hart Center (3,600).

4 BUCKNELL

National Rank: 235

Coach: Pat Flannery (94-75, 6 years; 189-105 overall, 11 years).

1999-2000 record: 17-11. Patriot: 8-4/3rd.

Key players: Bryan Bailey, G, 6-0/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 35.4 3% 1.3 spg); Jake Ramage, G, 6-4/Jr.; Brian Werner, F, 6-8/So.; Jeremiah Bennett, F, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: The Bison took a huge graduation hit, losing four starters from last season's team, but fans should have faith in the program and coach Flannery, who always puts together a competitive team. The good news is the return of Ramage, who missed last year with a knee injury. An excellent 3-point shooter, he averaged 11 points as a sixth man in 1998-99. He and Bailey should team in an effective backcourt. Questions abound up front, unless the newcomers have big, quick impacts. Leading the way is Bennett, who averaged 30 points and 10 rebounds at Fork Union Military Academy last year. Werner has potential, as does sophomore guard Dan Blankenship. Don't expect title contention, but a trip to the basement won't happen, either.

Last league title: 1989.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Lewisburg, Penn. **Home court:** Davis Gym (2,300).

5 COLGATE

National Rank: 288

Coach: Emmett Davis (27-30, 2 years).

1999-2000 record: 13-16. Patriot: 4-8/4th.

Key players: Pat Campolieti, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg 2.3 spg); Dave Hardy, G, 6-2/So. (5.6 ppg, 77.4 FT%); Devin Touhey, G, 6-0/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 37.9 3%); Howard Blue, F, 6-7/Fr.; Matt Shirley, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: Get ready to hear a lot about Campolieti, a versatile interior player who can score, rebound, pass and defend. He probably would prefer to share the spotlight, but forward Jordan Harris' decision to transfer out west, near his home, leaves the Red Raiders without another prime-time performer. That's not good, because Colgate struggled to score last year—with Harris. That 29.6 percent shooting in 3s must improve. Hardy and Touhey are serviceable guards, but unless freshman forwards Blue and Shirley contribute right away, Campolieti will get a lot of attention from enemy defenders, two and three at a time.

Last league title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Hamilton, N.Y. **Home court:** Cotterell Court (3,100).

6 ARMY

National Rank: 296

Coach: Pat Harris (21-61, 3 years).

1999-2000 record: 5-23. Patriot: 2-10/7th.

Key players: Chris Spatola, G, 5-11, Jr. (12.1 ppg, 82.7 FT%, 3.3 apg); Jonte Harrell, F, 6-7, Jr. (7.3 ppg, 5.6 rpg); Charles Woodruff, F, 6-5, Jr. (5.9 ppg); J.P. Spatola, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: With four starters back and the makings of a solid bench, the Black Knights are ready to make a move—into sixth place. Let's not get carried away here. Look for an all-Spatola backcourt, with Chris filling the scorer's role and little brother J.P. taking on the point. The return of forward Dax Pearson from a two-year Mormon mission fortifies the frontcourt, which could use some help, since center Adam Glosier decided he didn't like Academy life. Harrell is a capable banger whose shooting eye appears in need of a LASIK procedure. Actually, all the Cadets could use a consultation with an eye-care professional. Army shot 36.3 percent last year and averaged 52.9 points.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: West Point, N.Y. **Home court:** Christi Arena (5,043).

7 LEHIGH

National Rank: 307

Coach: Sal Montesana (25-91, 4 years; 143-191 overall, 13 years).

1999-2000 record: 8-21. Patriot: 3-9/T5th.

Key players: Matt Logie, G/F, 6-5, So. (8.2 ppg); Sah-U-Ra Brown, F/C, 6-10, Sr. (6.0 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.9 bpg); Edil Lacayo, F, 6-5, Sr. (5.5 ppg, 75.9 FT%).

Outlook: First, the good news. The Mountain Hawks should have a solid backcourt. You don't want to hear the rest. Lehigh will struggle up front, unless pivots Brown and Matt Crawford decide to get nasty. Lacayo is OK, but he's too polite inside, particularly for someone who weighs 215 pounds. Logie will provide some long-range firepower, and Zlatko Savovic is primed to replace solid Steve Aylsworth. The X factor is Alan Goff, a rare junior college transfer who can score and will need to assume the role of go-to guy, now that second-team all-Patriot wing Jared Hess is gone.

Last league title: 1988 (East Coast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Bethlehem, Pa. **Home court:** Stabler Arena (5,600).

Schedules

Army	Bucknell	Colgate	Holy Cross	Lafayette	Lehigh	Navy
N19 Coast Guard	N18 Lock Haven	N17 Hobart	N18 at Providence	N11 Monmouth	N19 Vermont	N13 Texas*
N22 New Hampshire	N21 St. Francis (Pa.)	N21 at Arizona State	N21 at Harvard	N18 at Cornell	N21 at Wagner	N18 Rice
N25 at Duke	N25 at Rutgers	N25 at Northern Arizona	N25 Massachusetts	N21 at Rutgers	N25 Harvard	N20 Northeastern
N29 Cornell	N27 Drew	N28 at Syracuse	N28 Dartmouth	N25 at St. Peter's	N28 Swarthmore	N30 at Denver
D2 at Stony Brook	N29 at American	N30 Ithaca	D1 Manhattan	N27 Albright	D2 Delaware State	D2 at Air Force
D6 at Columbia	D2 at Iona	D2 Binghamton	D4 at Boston College	N29 Columbia	D5 at Air Force	D7 at Liberty
D9 at Brown	D5 at Cornell	D4 at Yale	D6 at Northeastern	D2 at Rider	D9 Dartmouth	D9 at Wake Forest
D11 Albany	D22 at Penn State	D9 Harvard	D17 at Vermont	D6 Princeton	D11 Columbia	D19 Gettysburg
D30 at Marist	D28 at Virginia	D21 Niagara	D20 Fordham	D10 Howard	D22 Cornell	D21 Md.-Balt. County
J3 Yale	D30 at UMBC	D23 at Long Island	D23 Princeton	D20 Scranton	D27 at Miami	D23 at William & Mary
J6 at Quinnipiac	J3 Mount St. Mary's	D29-30 Capital City Classic	D28 New Hampshire	J3 Marist	D30 at Jacksonville	D30 SMU
J10 at Binghamton	J6 Canisius	J3 Cornell	D30 at Brown	J10 Lehigh	J3 Brown	J2 Harvard
J13 Colgate	J10 at Navy	J10 at Holy Cross	J3 at Sacred Heart	J13 Bucknell	J6 at New Hampshire	J6 at Stony Brook
J17 at Lehigh	J13 at Lafayette	J13 at Army	J6 Yale	J20 Pennsylvania	J10 at Lafayette	J10 at Bucknell
J20 at Bucknell	J17 Holy Cross	J17 at Dartmouth	J10 Colgate	J24 Holy Cross	J13 at Holy Cross	J13 at Belmont
J24 Navy	J20 Army	J20 Lehigh	J13 at Lehigh	J27 Army	J17 Army	J17 Lafayette
J27 at Lafayette	J22 American	J24 Bucknell	J17 at Bucknell	J31 at Colgate	J20 at Colgate	J20 at Holy Cross
J3 at Holy Cross	J24 at Colgate	J27 at Navy	J20 Navy	F3 at Lehigh	J24 at Pennsylvania	J24 at Army
F3 at Albany	J27 at Lehigh	J31 Lafayette	J24 at Lafayette	F7 at Bucknell	J27 Bucknell	J27 Colgate
F7 at Colgate	F3 Navy	F3 Holy Cross	J31 Army	F10 Navy	J31 Navy	J31 at Lehigh
F10 at Lehigh	F7 Lafayette	F7 Army	F3 at Colgate	F14 at Albany	F3 Lafayette	F3 at Bucknell
F14 Bucknell	F10 at Holy Cross	F10 at Albany	F7 Lehigh	F17 at Holy Cross	F7 at Holy Cross	F5 at Richmond
F17 at Navy	F14 at Army	F14 at Lehigh	F10 at Colgate	F19 Stony Brook	F10 at Army	F10 at Lafayette
F21 Lafayette	F17 Colgate	F17 at Bucknell	F14 at Navy	F21 at Army	F14 Colgate	F14 Holy Cross
F24 Holy Cross	F21 Lehigh	F21 Navy	F17 Lafayette	F24 Colgate	F17 at Albany	F17 Army
F27 Stony Brook	F24 at Albany	F24 Lafayette	F20 at Boston University		F21 at Bucknell	F21 at Colgate
			F24 at Army		F24 at Navy	F24 Lehigh
						*Preseason NIT

Independents

Schedules

TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN National Rank: 220

Coach: Bob Hoffman (12-16, 1 year; 343-111 overall, 13 years).

1999-2000 record: 12-16.

Key players: Brian Merriweather, G, 6-4/Sr. (20.4 ppg, 41.5 3%, 86.0 FT%); John Braxton, F, 6-4/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 75.7 FT%, 4.4 rpg); Kwasinda Curtis, G, 6-1/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 3.9 apg, 3.5 rpg); Kyle Sanders, F, 6-5/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 54.4 FG%, 73.6 FT%, 4.4 rpg); Mire Chatman, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); DeFrance Gurley, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Trenn Smith, G, 6-2/ So. (JC); Joey Tate, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Merriweather will be one of the most dangerous scorers in the nation again. Braxton, Curtis and Sanders are all experienced players who contribute around Merriweather. If the Broncos turn the corner, it will be with the help of four JC transfers. Chatman, Gurley, Smith and Tate all add some offense to an already accomplished scoring team. If the team can gel and play good defense, a plus-.500 season is possible.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Edinburg, Texas. **Home court:** UTPA Field Hse (5,000).

CENTENARY National Rank: 262

Coach: Kevin Johnson (10-18, 1 year).

1999-2000 record: 10-18.

Key players: Ronnie McCollum, G, 6-4/Sr. (23.8 ppg, 80.4 FT%); Warren Harris, G, 6-0/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 3.5 apg); Miroslav Ilic, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.3 ppg); Brien Rabenhorst, C, 6-9/Jr., Olufemi Oduko, F, 6-4/Sr. (5.9 rpg), Shohn Williams, G, 6-4/So.; Kevin Atamah, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Kresimir Tomorad, C, 6-9/So. (JC).

Outlook: McCollum is a talented scorer—he finished third in the nation last season—and the Gents will try to rebuild around him. Chemistry could be a problem. McCollum will feel more pressure to create shots and produce with seven newcomers and an inexperienced point guard in Harris. Though green, the Gents add athleticism, which always helps. Keep an eye on Tomorad, who will be asked to start, and Atamah, the team's best defensive player.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Shreveport, La. **Home court:** Gold Dome (3,000).

ALBANY (N.Y.) National Rank: 269

Coach: Scott Beeten (11-17).

1999-2000 record: 11-17.

Key players: Will Brand, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Karim Ouattara, F, 6-7/Jr. (63.6 FG%, 3.5 ppg, 3.6 rpg); Dave Schloss, C, 6-11/Jr. (4.1 ppg, 75.0 FT%); Antione Johnson, G, 5-11/So. (4.8 ppg); Steve Albany, F, 6-8/So. (3.7 ppg, 50.7 FG%); Joe Vukovic, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (46.9 FG%, 3.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg); Sam Hopes, G, 6-3/So. (9.2 ppg); Brian Barnes, G, 5-10/So.; Joe Garba, F, 6-6/Jr.; Rasheed Bonner, F, 6-8/So. (RS); Alex Barnhill, F, 6-4/So. (transfer, elig. in December).

Outlook: The Great Danes return seven lettermen but start over with a new head coach in former Cal assistant Beeten. They also lost their top two scorers, both from the backcourt. Johnson was a part-time starter at the point as a freshman but will have to be the leader, with Gallup taking over at off-guard. Albany could get a boost when Barnhill, a transfer from Canisius, becomes eligible in December and once Bonner shows he is back from last season's leg injury.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Albany, N.Y. **Home court:** Recreation & Convocation Center (5,000).

BELMONT UNIVERSITY National Rank: 287

Coach: Rick Byrd (305-149, 14 years; 397-204, 19 years).

1999-2000 record: 7-21.

Key players: Wes Burtner, F, 6-5/Jr. (14.3 ppg, 37.9 3%, 4.1 rpg); B.J. Proffitt, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 87.8 FT%);

Omari Booker, C, 6-8/So. (51.1 FG%, 3.8 rpg); Michael Couey, G, 6-6/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 44.9 FG%); Jay Lannin, G, 6-5/Sr. (9.8 ppg); Adam Sonn, C, 6-7/So. (transfer). Steve Drabyn, G, 6-0/Fr.; Adam Mark, F, 6-8/Fr.;

Outlook: The glass is half empty and half full. The Bruins have only two seniors returning from a team that took a step backward last season, winning only seven games. Belmont does come back with its top three scorers and two of its top three rebounders. The Bruins like to shoot, leading the nation in 3-pointers made per game in 1998-99 and ranking third nationally last season. The load rests on Burtner, the best shooter, and Proffitt, who will take over point guard duties. Couey, Lannin and Booker must do better on the boards. Drabyn and Mark could be big additions.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Striplin Gymnasium (2,500).

STONY BROOK National Rank: 297

Coach: Nick Macarchuk (6-23, 1 year; 316-343 overall, 23 years).

1999-2000 record: 6-23.

Key players: Josh Little, G, 6-3/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 78.6 FT%); Rob Hartman, G, 6-0/Sr. (6.6 pg, 74.6 FT%, 3.5 rpg); Joakim Eriksson, F/C, 6-7/So. (56.8 FG%, 5.1 ppg, 72.0 FT%); Chris Balliro, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg); Donte Blades, F, 6-5/Sr. (76.5 FT%); J.B. Bennett, F, 6-8/Fr.; Leon Brisport, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (transfer); Lee Church, G, 6-0/Fr.

Outlook: The Seawolves won only six games last year and lost a lot of frontcourt depth. That is why Brisport and Eriksson must elevate their play. Brisport averaged 24 points and 10 boards in junior college—he also played a year at Providence—so he has skills. Eriksson came on strong in the second half of the season. In the backcourt, Little can shoot the 3-pointer, but the X factor will be Church, a true freshman expected to start at the point.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Stonybrook, N.Y. **Home court:** USB Sports Complex (4,103).

TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI National Rank: N/A

Coach: Ronnie Arrow (13-13, one year; 126-107 overall, 8 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

1999-2000 record: 13-13.

Key players: Lee Denmon, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 1.7 spg); Arunas Drasutis, F, 6-5/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 2.5 rpg); Michael Hicks, F, 6-5/Sr. (22.2 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 2.8, 2.2 spg); Dustin Shultz, F/C, 6-8/So. (2.5 rpg); Damian Kirkaldy, F, 6-9/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.4 bpg);

Outlook: Coming off a surprising inaugural season, the Islanders, a Division I "provisional" school (it will be eligible for the NCAA Tournament next season), return four starters and have set their sights on a plus-.500 year. Arrow, a two-time Sun Belt coach of the year while at South Alabama, prefers an uptempo game—the Islanders averaged 80.5 points—and he appears to have a deeper, more balanced squad this season. The leader is Hicks, an efficient scorer and impressive rebounder. The frontcourt will need Kirkaldy, a capable shot blocker who once played with Hicks on the Panamanian national team, to continue the surge he began at the end of last season, when he averaged 14.9 points and 7.8 rebounds in his final eight games. A big question is point guard, where Arrow will be looking for a new starter.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Corpus Christi, Texas. **Home court:** Circle K Court (3,500).

Albany State

N21 at Niagara
N26 Green Mountain
N30 at Vermont
D2 Harvard
D5 at Syracuse
D11 at Army
D14 Monmouth
D29-30 Gossner Foods Classic
J3 Liberty
J6 at Elon
J9 Maryland-Eastern Shore
J13 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J15 at Texas-Pan American
J20 at Dartmouth
J22 at Columbia
J24 Dartmouth
J27 Stony Brook
F3 Army
F7 at Stony Brook
F10 Colgate
F14 Lafayette
F17 Lehigh
F19 Southern Vermont
F24 Bucknell
F28 Delaware State

Belmont University

N17-18 FIU Tipoff Classic
N21 Middle Tennessee State
N25 at Samford
N27 Furman
N29 at East Carolina
D2 at Georgia Southern
D4 at Valparaiso
D9 Western Carolina
D16 Georgia Southern
D19 at UC Irvine
D22 at Arizona State
D29-30 Dr Pepper Classic
J10 at Western Carolina
J13 Navy
J18 at Loyola-Chicago
J20 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J22 at Centenary
J29 Fisk
F1 Centenary
F5 IU-Southeast
F7 at Vanderbilt
F10 at UT-Pan American
F12 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F17 Austin Peay
F19 UT-Pan American
F21 at Stetson

Centenary

N18 East Texas Baptist
N21 SW Texas State
N25 at UT Martin
N28 at Arkansas
D1-2 Coca Cola Classic
D6 LeTourneau
D9 at Southern
D16 at Louisiana Tech
D19 at Iowa
D30 at Minnesota
J2 UT Martin
J4 at Texas A&M
J8 at Tulane
J13 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J17 at Louisiana State
J20 Louisiana Tech
J22 Belmont
J27 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F1 at Belmont
F3 at David Lipscomb
F10 Arkansas Baptist
F12 at Alabama-Birmingham
F17 Texas-Pan American
F21 Northwestern State
F24 at Texas-Pan American

Stony Brook

N18 at St. John's

N21 New England College
N25 Hofstra
N29 at New Hampshire
D2 Army
D6 at Maryland
D9 at Columbia
D13 at Maryland-Eastern Shore
D16 at Rutgers
D23 Texas-Arlington
D30 Elon
J3 at Rider
J6 Navy
J8 at Cleveland State
J11 Medgar Evers
J13 at Binghamton
J17 at College of Charleston
J24 Brown
J27 at Albany
J29 Cornell
F3 Maritime
F7 Albany
F13 Maryland-Eastern Shore
F17 at Lehigh
F19 at Lafayette
F27 at Army

Texas-Pan American

N18 Sul Ross
N24 Portland
N27 Schreiner
N30 at Northern Iowa
D2 at Missouri
D4 at Arkansas State
D13 at Pacific
D16 at Hawaii
D21 UT-Dallas
D23 Arkansas State
D29-30 All-College Tournament
J2 at Kansas State
J4 at Colorado State
J8 LeTourneau
J10 at Rice
J13 Albany
J15 at Louisiana-Lafayette
J24 at Air Force
J29 at Washington State
J31 at Wright State
F3 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F10 Belmont
F12 Louisiana-Lafayette
F14 at Texas A&M
F17 at Centenary
F19 at Belmont
F24 Centenary
F27 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

N17 Sul Ross
N20 Prairie View A&M
N22 Portland
N26 Cal Poly
N28 at Southwest Texas State
D1-2 Pizza Hut Classic
D7 at Valparaiso
D16 at Texas
D18 at Texas Tech
D23 Portland State
D28-29 Islander Classic
J4 at San Diego State
J6 at BYU
J8 at Cal Poly
J13 Centenary
J15 Albany (N.Y.)
J20 at Belmont
J22 at Winthrop
J27 at Centenary
J31 at Prairie View A&M
F3 at UT Pan-American
F5 at Cleveland State
F10 Texas College
F12 Belmont
F22 at Bethune-Cookman
F27 UT-Pan American

Prime prospects

THE SPORTING NEWS asked five top recruiting analysts to provide lists of the top high school players in the nation. We assigned each player a number based on each analyst's ranking and came up with master lists, beginning with the top senior prospects. The number that follows each player is each analyst's ranking.

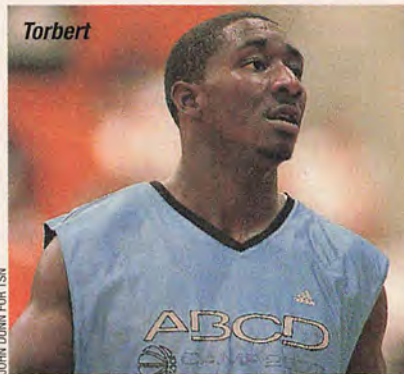
Key: VJ—Van Johnson; VC—Van Coleman; DT—Dave Telep;
BO—Brick Dettinger; SW—Stephen Wacaser.

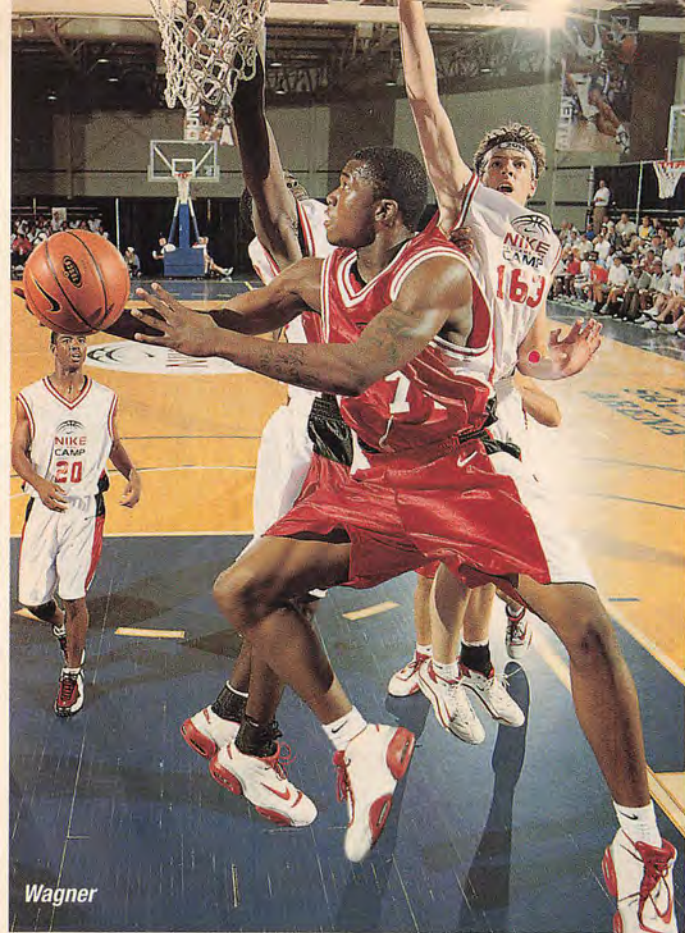
Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High School	VJ	VC	DT	BO	SW
1.	Eddy Curry	C	6-11/288	South Holland, Ill./Thornwood	1	2	1	1	1
The man-child every major college coach dreams to have. He is a powerful force inside, athletic, blessed with soft hands and has a feathery touch from the free-throw line. He may go straight to the NBA. If not, he's considering DePaul, Illinois, Memphis.									
2.	Kelvin Torbert	SG	6-4/198	Flint, Mich./Northwestern	5	1	3	4	3
An unstoppable scorer with serious hops. A terrific defender, he has a muscular frame and punishes opponents. He averaged 26.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg and 4.2 apg for 20-3 Northwestern last year. College choices: Michigan State, Cincinnati, Michigan, Connecticut.									
3.	Dajuan Wagner	PG	6-2/180	Camden, N.J./Camden	2	3	4	2	7
Since the eighth grade, Wagner has been under the microscope in a basketball-crazed city. His father, Milt, helped Louisville win the '86 NCAA title, and next fall Dajuan will follow his father to Memphis, where Milt is an assistant. Averaged 31.8 ppg for Class 4 state champs.									
4.	Tyson Chandler	C	7-1/225	Compton, Calif./Dominguez	3	5	2	6	4
One of the most publicized prep players ever since the focal point of a 60 Minutes segment as a freshman. Deserving of the attention, Chandler led Dominguez to a 35-2 season and No. 1 rating from USA Today last season. Likely NBA bound.									
5.	Ousmane Cisse	C	6-8/238	Montgomery, Ala./St. Jude	6	4	6	3	2
Neither Curry nor Chandler got the best of Cisse in head-to-head summer matchups. Matter of fact, Cisse clearly outplayed Chandler at Nike and statistically outplayed Curry at AAU Nationals. He's the warrior of all the interior players. College choices: Louisville leads, with Duke and others in pursuit.									

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High School	VJ	VC	DT	BO	SW
6.	Kwame Brown	PF	6-10/235	Brunswick, Ga./Glynn Aca.	4	12	7	7	6
He committed to Florida as a rising junior and appears to be bidding his time until he heads to Gainesville. Averaged a double-double last year (15.5 ppg/11.5 rpg) for 28-2 team. He's versatile and capable of triple-doubles. He needs to develop a go-to move inside to be special.									
7.	Julius Hodge	SG	6-5/177	Bronx, N.Y./St. Raymond's	10	7	9	5	9
The No. 1 senior in the Big Apple after leading St. Raymond's to the NYC crown, defeating Rice an amazing four consecutive times. He averaged 20.2 ppg, 7.2 rpg and 4.2 apg. Slender and smooth. College Choices: NC State, Florida, Maryland, Syracuse.									
8.	DeSagana Diop	C	6-11/275	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	20	10	5	8	5
Big and strong with soft hands, he may be the best prospect in Oak Hill's touted history. Very mature, he dominates defensively and has an effective low-post game. He averaged 17.5 ppg, 8 rpg and 6.5 bpg last year for a 30-2 squad. College choices: Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Miami (Fla.).									
9.	Jonathan Hargett	PG	5-11/187	Durham, N.C./Emmanuel	11	9	11	11	8
Inch-for-inch as good a player as any. He is explosive, has a killer crossover, can leap over tall buildings and is a pinpoint passer. He has no idea what a good or bad shot is; he just plays. Very entertaining. He was the MVP of three summer outings. College choices: Arizona, Tennessee, many ACC teams.									
10.	David Lee	PF	6-8/220	St. Louis/Chaminade	12	11	12	9	11
Reminds many of a young Tom Chambers. He loves to dunk in traffic and can block shots, lead the break and play with intensity. He can use either hand inside or outside and needs only to develop a consistent outside jumper. College choices: Florida leads Duke, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Kansas.									

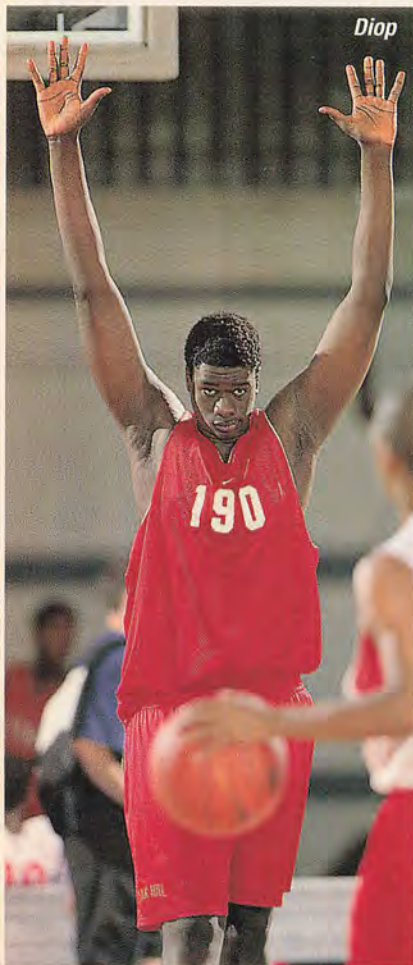
Chandler

Cisse

Torbert

Curry

Wagner



Diop

ANALYST BIOS

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BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High School	VJ	VC	DT	BO	SW
11.	Rick Rickert	PF	6-11/211	Duluth, Minn./East	21	6	8	20	10
12.	Carlos Hurt	PG	6-2/177	Louisville, Ky./Moore	9	13	19	13	13
13.	Jawad Williams	SF	6-7/200	Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edwards	7	15	13	18	16
14.	Maurice Williams	PG	6-1/186	Jackson, Miss./Murrah	8	16	15	19	12
15.	Aaron Miles	PG	6-0/175	Portland, Ore./Jefferson	17	8	14	15	17
16.	David Harrison	C	6-11/234	Nashville, Tenn./Brentwood Aca.	16	18	10	14	14
17.	James White	SF	6-7/200	Chatham, Va./Hargrave	14	14	18	10	20
18.	Josh Childress	SG	6-6/190	Lakewood, Calif./Mayfair	15	17	21	25	19
19.	Rashaad Carruth	SG	6-2/188	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	18	21	26	21	18
20.	Julian Sensley	PF	6-8/220	Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More	30	19	17	12	30
21.	Wayne Simien	PF	6-8/233	Leavenworth, Kan./Leavenworth	40	20	16	17	22
22.	Cedric Bozeman	PG	6-4/189	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	13	26	24	40	15
23.	T.J. Ford	PG	5-10/156	Sugar Land, Texas/Willowridge	29	23	28	22	24
24.	Jackie Manuel	SG	6-5/180	West Palm Beach, Fla./Newman	24	22	23	34	23
25.	Robert Whaley	PF	6-9/256	Benton Harbor, Mich./Benton Harbor	25	27	20	27	27
26.	Jamal Sampson	C	6-11/227	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	36	28	25	36	21
27.	Dijon Thompson	SF	6-6/200	Redondo Beach, Calif./Union	19	40	35	31	25
28.	Anthony Richardson	SF	6-7/180	Raleigh, N.C./Leesville Road	38	38	30	16	31
29.	Daniel Ewing	SG	6-3/180	Sugar Land, Tex./Willowridge	32	33	32	30	29
30.	Najeeb Echols	SF	6-6/220	Chicago/Whitney Young	26	37	31	50	26
31.	Melvin Scott	WG	6-2/165	Baltimore, Md./Southern	28	51	36	26	32
32.	Dennis Latimore	PF	6-7/230	Halstead, Kan./Halstead	33	39	27	43	38
33.	Ben Gordon	SG	6-2/177	Mount Vernon, N.Y./Mount Vernon	22	46	34	45	40
34.	Elton Brown	PF	6-7/235	Newport News, Va./Warwick	48	35	37	33	39
35.	Brandon Bender	C	6-9/239	Louisville, Ky./Ballard	23	55	29	60	34
36.	Pierre Pierce	SG	6-2/179	Westmont, Ill./Westmont	46	34	46	41	35
37.	JaQuan Hart	SF	6-6/175	Flint, Mich./Northern	35	25	38	82	28
38.	Andre Patterson	SF	6-6/195	Los Angeles/Washington Prep	74	24	54	24	43
39.	Keith Jackson	SG	6-4/191	Cincinnati/Purcell Marian	37	42	64	51	33
40.	Chris Thomas	PG	6-1/174	Indianapolis/Pike	49	47	56	38	46
41.	Dommanic Ingerson	SG	6-3/180	Santa Barbara, Calif./Santa Barbara	95	31	49	23	44
42.	Billy Edelin	PG	6-2/180	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	43	53	47	59	48
43.	Greg Tinch	SF	6-5/204	Albany, Ga./Westover	31	62	50	52	56
44.	Alan Anderson	F	6-4/200	Minneapolis/De La Salle	—	29	22	58	42
45.	Travis Diener	PG	6-0/154	Fond du Lac, Wis./Goodrich	51	32	44	—	37
46.	Josh Powell	PF	6-8/220	Riverdale, Ga./Riverdale	34	69	43	70	50
47.	Charles Frederick	PG	6-1/180	Boca Raton, Fla./Pope John Paul II	—	36	45	32	53
48.	Earnest Shelton	SG	6-3/178	Memphis, Tenn./White Station	39	58	40	96	36
49.	Ed Nelson	PF	6-8/245	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas	59	45	83	29	54
50.	Chuck Hayes	F	6-6/221	Modesto, Calif./Modesto Christian	54	49	63	68	47
51.	Jason Maxiell	PF	6-7/219	Carrollton, Tex./Newman Smith	93	30	60	62	51
52.	John Allen	SF	6-5/195	Coatesville, Pa./Coatesville	—	54	51	35	57
53.	Quemont Greer	F	6-6/215	Milwaukee/Vincent	83	48	67	49	52
54.	Levar Seals	SG	6-3/180	Chicago/Providence-St. Mel	64	66	39	87	45
55.	Harvey Thomas	PF	6-8/200	Durham, N.C./Emmanuel Full Gospel	—	41	80	28	61
56.	Brandon Fuss-Cheatum	PG	6-0/180	Beaver Falls, Pa./Blackhawk	72	59	61	69	55
57.	Dwayne Mitchell	SG	6-4/190	New Orleans/J.F. Kennedy	41	60	78	—	41
58.	Roger Powell	SF	6-6/220	Joliet, Ill./Joliet Township	66	56	74	63	64
59.	Salim Stoudamire	PG	6-1/175	Lake Oswego, Ore./Lake Oswego	63	81	66	47	68
60.	Marco Killingsworth	PF	6-8/230	Durham, N.C./Emmanuel Full Gospel	—	50	53	57	65
61.	Erick Craven	PG	6-2/190	Torrance, Calif./Montgomery	85	75	57	71	69
62.	Tony Key	C	6-9/260	Russellville, Ky./Russellville	—	57	62	46	66
63.	Robert Little	C	6-9/240	Fairfax, Va./Paul VI	—	77	33	65	60
64.	Marcus Spears	PF	6-5/255	Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab	76	68	71	74	49
65.	Larry Turner	C	6-10/230	Milledgeville, Ga./Baldwin	92	72	58	54	70
66.	Mike Jensen	PF	6-8/225	Covington, Wash./Kentwood	27	—	65	—	59
67.	Jamal Levy	PF	6-9/210	Homestead, Fla./Berkshire	—	44	82	48	78
68.	Is'mail Muhammad	SF	6-6/190	Atlanta/WD Mohammed	79	—	55	44	76
69.	Marcus Campbell	C	7-0/250	Albany, Ga./Westover	—	70	41	85	67
70.	Levi Watkins	PF	6-7/220	Rockville, Md./Montrose Christian	—	61	69	64	73
71.	Erroll Knight	SG	6-3/180	Seattle/Chief Sealth	68	94	59	86	62
72.	Winsome Frazier	SF	6-5/175	Miami/Northwestern	47	52	—	—	72
73.	Duane John	SF	6-4/180	Toronto/Boylan	—	—	52	37	82
74.	Matt Sylvester	SF	6-6/189	Cincinnati/Moeller	87	93	48	79	71
75.	Channing Frye	C	6-10/225	Phoenix/St. Mary's	70	67	—	56	85
76.	Jamaal Williams	PF	6-6/230	Corona, Calif./Centennial	98	74	72	61	77
77.	Anthony Vasser	SF	6-7/200	Birmingham, Ala./Woodlawn	—	76	42	—	63
78.	Taurance Johnson	PF	6-9/235	Glassboro, N.J./Faith Christian	—	43	—	39	—
79.	Will Bynum	PG	5-10/172	Chicago/Crane Tech	84	71	93	67	79
80.	Michael Fey	C	6-11/232	Olympia, Wa./Capitol	75	80	79	97	74
81.	Chris Alexander	C	7-1/240	Winchendon, Ma./Winchendon School	63	—	42	—	—
82.	Craig Forth	C	7-1/230	East Greenbush, N.Y./Columbia	96	65	85	89	75
83.	Eddie Basden	SG	6-5/190	Greenbelt, Md./Roosevelt	90	73	86	72	97
84.	Chey Christie	SG	6-4/180	Biloxi, Miss./Biloxi	—	64	—	55	—
85.	Marcellus Sommerville	SF	6-6/215	Peoria, Ill./Central	—	85	87	81	57
86.	Ernest Turner	SG	6-2/190	Somerdale, N.J./Sterling	—	78	68	80	96
87.	Emeka Okafor	C	6-9/230	Houston/Bellaire	42	—	90	—	91
88.	Barry Elder	SG	6-5/200	Madison, Ga./Morgan County	—	84	88	73	84
89.	Isaiah Fox	PF	6-7/260	Santa Monica, Calif./Crossroads	53	97	89	—	94
90.	Carl Krauser	PG	6-1/175	Oakdale, Conn./Thomas More	—	79	—	53	—
91.	Demarshay Johnson	PF	6-9/230	Oakland/Oakland Tech	61	96	—	78	—
92.	Jordan Cornette	SF	6-7/208	Cincinnati/St. Xavier	62	—	—	99	80
93.	Mark Konecny	PF	6-9/223	Southbury, Conn./Holy Cross	44	—	—	—	—
94.	Marcus Sloan	PF	6-8/230	Houston/Eisenhower	45	—	—	—	—
95.	Von Bittle	PG	6-1/165	Winston-Salem, N.C./Reynolds	—	90	100	77	83
96.	Joseph See	PG	6-0/180	Concord, Calif./De La Salle	60	—	—	—	89
97.	Chris Hernandez	PG	6-2/170	Fresno, Calif./Clovis West	—	—	77	76	98
98.	Chris Charles	C	7-0/220	Mercersburg, Pa./Mercersburg Aca.	50	—	—	—	81
99.	Dennis Coutee	SG	6-5/190	Jeffersonville, Ind./Jeffersonville	—	—	70	—	—
100.	Anthony Washington	PF	6-9/212	Seattle/Garfield	52	—	—	—	—

Where the consensus top 50 signed

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High School	
1.	Eddie Griffin	PF	6-9/210	Philadelphia/Roman Catholic	Seton Hall
2.	Zach Randolph	C	6-9/270	Marion, Ind./Marion	Michigan State
3.	Gerald Wallace	SF	6-7/210	Alabama/Childersburg	Alabama
4.	Marcus Taylor	PG	6-2/190	Lansing, Mich./Waverly	Michigan State
5.	Chris Duhon	PG	6-2/180	Slidell, La./Salmen	Duke
	Jared Jeffries	PF	6-9/215	Bloomington, Ind./North	Indiana
7.	Caron Butler	SF	6-6/245	Pittsfield, Me./Maine Central	Connecticut
8.	Mario Austin	PF	6-9/265	York, Ala./Sumter County	Mississippi State
9.	Andre Brown	PF	6-9/220	Chicago/Leo	DePaul
10.	Omar Cook	PG	6-1/175	Middle Village, N.Y./Christ The King	St. John's
11.	Darius Rice	SF	6-9/200	Jackson, Miss./Lanier	Miami (Fla.)
12.	Taliek Brown	PG	6-1/180	Astoria, N.Y./St. John's	Connecticut
	Alton Ford	PF	6-9/260	Houston/Milby	Houston
14.	Andre Barrett	PG	5-8/165	Manhattan, New York/Rice	Seton Hall
15.	Rolando Howell	C	6-9/227	Hopkins, S.C., Lower Richland	South Carolina
16.	Justin Reed	PF	6-7/221	Jackson, Miss./Provine	Mississippi
17.	Cedrick Banks	SG	6-3/180	Chicago/Westinghouse	Illinois-Chicago
18.	Jason Parker	PF	6-7/260	Fork Union, Va./Fork Union	Kentucky
	Imari Sawyer	PG	6-1/176	Chicago/M.L. King	DePaul
20.	Orien Greene	SG	6-5/180	Gainesville, Fla.	Florida
21.	Abdou Diame	PF	6-8/200	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	Auburn
22.	Glen Worley	F	6-7/210	Iowa City, Iowa/West	Iowa
23.	Nick Anderson	SF	6-6/200	Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab	Texas A&M
24.	Scooter Sherrill	SG	6-3/180	Mt. Ulla, N.C./West Rowan	North Carolina State
25.	Chris Wilcox	PF	6-10/209	Raleigh, N.C./Enloe	Maryland
26.	Brian Morrison	SG	6-2/180	Kirkland, Wash./Lake Washington	North Carolina
27.	Desmon Farmer	SG	6-4/195	Flint, Mich./Northwestern	Southern California
	Bernard Robinson	SF	6-6/200	New Hampton, N.H./New Hampton School	Michigan
29.	Garner Meads	PF	6-9/220	Salt Lake City, Utah/Brighton	BYU
30.	James Thomas	PF	6-8/220	Chatham, Va./Hargrave	Texas
31.	Travon Bryant	PF	6-8/225	Long Beach, Calif./Jordan	Missouri
32.	Arthur Johnson	PF	6-7/240	Detroit/Pershing	Missouri
33.	Rickey Paulding	SF	6-5/187	Detroit/Renaissance	Missouri
34.	Michael Sweetney	C	6-8/275	Oxon Hill, Md./Oxon Hill	Georgetown
35.	Cliff Hawkins	PG	6-2/185	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	Kentucky
36.	Romain Sato	SG	6-4/189	Dayton, Ohio/Christian	Xavier
	Marcus Toney-El	SF	6-6/200	West Orange, N.J./Seton Hall Prep	Seton Hall
38.	T.J. Cummings	PF	6-8/220	Homewood, Ill./Flossmoor	UCLA
39.	Scott Hazelton	F	6-7/200	Lawrence, Mass./Central Catholic	Connecticut
40.	Brian Boddicker	C	6-9/225	Duncanville, Texas/Duncanville	Texas
	Keith Tripplett	SG	6-4/190	Toledo, Ohio/Bowsher	Toledo
42.	Adam Boone	PG	6-2/170	Minnetonka, Minn./Minnetonka	North Carolina
	Jake Sullivan	PG	6-1/175	Oakdale, Minn./Tartan	Iowa State
44.	Jared Reiner	C	6-11/240	Tripp, S.D./Tripp-Delmont	Iowa
45.	Wesley Stokes	PG	5-9/165	Long Beach, Calif./Poly	Missouri
46.	Jeff McMillan	C	6-8/250	Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More	Fordham
	James Theus	PG	5-11/160	Detroit/M.L. King	Syracuse
48.	Scooter McFadgon	SG	6-5/200	Memphis, Tenn./Raleigh-Egypt	Memphis
49.	Mohammed Diakite	C	6-11/220	Rockville, Md./Montrose Christian	St. John's
50.	Neil Fingleton	C	7-6/295	Worcester, Mass./Holy Name Central Catholic	North Carolina


Banks

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Top sophomores

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High School
1.	Lawrence Carrier	F	6-8/190	Salisbury, Conn./Salisbury Prep
2.	Lebron James	SF	6-5/190	Akron, Ohio/St. Vincent-St. Mary's
3.	Major Wingate	C	6-9/230	Florence, S.C./Wilson
4.	Richard McBride	SG	6-2/190	Springfield, Ill./Lanphier
5.	Grant Billmeier	C	6-10/230	Elizabeth, N.J./St. Patrick's
6.	Richard Cobbs	F	6-4/190	Moreno Valley, Calif./Canyon Springs
7.	Travis Outlaw	F	6-8/190	Starkville, Miss./Starkville
8.	Jermaine Bell	C	6-10/200	Rochester, N.Y./Benjamin Franklin
9.	Harrison Schaan	PF	6-8/190	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei
10.	Dion Harris	PG	6-3/170	Detroit/Redford
11.	Rickey Lucas	SG	6-3/180	Arlington, Va./Bishop O'Connell
12.	Lorenzo Thompson	PF	6-7/220	Chicago/Crane Tech
13.	Lodrick Stewart	SG	6-3/175	Seattle/Rainier Beach
14.	Omari Israel	F	6-7/220	Wheaton, Md./Good Counsel
15.	Olu Famutimi	SF	6-6/190	Detroit/Northwestern Edison
16.	Michael Bush	SG	6-3/180	Louisville, Ky./Male
17.	Shagari Alleyne	C	7-0/220	Manhattan, N.Y./Rice
18.	Maurice Shaw	PF	6-8/180	Fresno, Calif./Washington Union
19.	Rashaun Bryant	PF	6-8/215	Rome, Ga./Coosa
20.	Leon Powe	F	6-8/190	Oakland, Calif./Tech

Top juniors

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High School
1.	Amare Stoudemire	C	6-9/223	Durham, N.C./Mount Zion
2.	Lenny Cooke	SF	6-6/190	Old Tappan, N.J./Northern Valley
3.	Shavlik Randolph	PF	6-9/213	Raleigh, N.C./Broughton
4.	Anthony Roberson	PG	6-1/170	Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw
5.	Sani Ibrahim	C	6-10/217	Atlanta/W.D. Mohammed
6.	Sean May	PF	6-8/250	Bloomington, Ind./North
7.	Sean Dockery	PG	6-1/189	Chicago/Julian
8.	Antonio Lawrence	SG	6-5/180	Jacksonville, Fla./Wolfson
9.	DeAngelo Collins	C	6-9/230	Inglewood, Calif./Inglewood
10.	Bracey Wright	SG	6-3/180	The Colony, Tex./The Colony
11.	Rashad McCants	SG	6-4/190	New Hampton, N.H./New Hampton
12.	Evan Burns	F	6-7/200	Los Angeles/Fairfax
13.	Matt Trannon	SF	6-7/220	Flint, Mich./Northern
14.	J.J. Redick	SG	6-4/180	Roanoke, Va./Cave Springs
15.	Shelden Williams	F	6-7/219	Midwest City, Okla./Midwest City
16.	Marshall Strickland	PG	6-2/186	Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha
17.	Chadd Moore	PG	6-2/180	Huntsville, Ala./Lee
18.	Charlie Rodriguez	PF	6-7/210	Fresno, Calif./Clovis West
19.	Paul Davis	C	6-9/224	Rochester, Mich./Rochester
20.	Torin Francis	C	6-9/219	Marion, Mass./Tabor Academy

Billmeier



Stoudemire



Where last year's top JC players signed

POINT GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College	Four-year school
1.	Maurice Baker	6-1/180	Dixie (Utah)	Oklahoma St.
2.	Larry Reid	5-11/165	Northern (Okla.)	Kansas St.
3.	Robert Yanders	5-11/160	SMS-West Plains (Mo.)	SW Missouri St.
4.	Travis Spivey	6-1/175	Salt Lake (Utah)	Utah
5.	Lincoln Glass	5-10/175	Lincoln Trail (Ill.)	Auburn
6.	Kerwin Fleming	6-3/180	Kennedy-King (Ill.)	Minnesota
7.	Eugene Costello	5-9/160	Midland (Texas)	Texas-El Paso
8.	Kenny Brunner	6-1/195	Southern (Idaho)	Georgia
9.	Kevin Bradley	6-0/170	Compton (Calif.)	Utah
10.	Maurice Williams	5-8/160	Cincinnati St. (Ohio)	IUPUI-Indianapolis

SHOOTING GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College	Four-year school
1.	Cory Hightower	6-7/185	Indian Hills (Iowa)	pro
2.	Joe Gordon	6-2/175	Brevard (Fla.)	Miami
3.	Immanuel McElroy	6-4/180	Tyler (Texas)	Cincinnati
4.	Monte Cummings	6-4/185	Southeastern (Iowa)	Florida St.
5.	Jannero Pargo	6-2/175	Neosho County (Kan.)	Arkansas
6.	Jermaine Lewis	6-3/190	Kilgore (Texas)	UNLV
7.	George Arnold	6-4/200	Holmes (Miss.)	Ala.-Birmingham
8.	Curtis McFall	6-4/205	Southeastern (Iowa)	Wichita St.
9.	Lemi Williams	6-6/190	Mineral Area (Mo.)	Long Beach St.
10.	Jamal Brown	6-0/170	Fort Scott (Kan.)	Texas Tech

SMALL FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College	Four-year school
1.	Antwan Jones	6-8/195	Tallahassee (Fla.)	Cincinnati
2.	Eric Batchelor	6-6/200	Northeast (Miss.)	Ala.-Birmingham
3.	Ed Williams	6-6/200	Ranger (Texas)	UNC-Wilmington
4.	Zelimir Stevanovic	6-7/210	Gulf Coast (Fla.)	Pittsburgh
5.	John Grice	6-8/200	Shelby St. (Tenn.)	Memphis
6.	Lamayn Wilson	6-7/205	Pearl River (Miss.)	Troy St.
7.	Elvin Mims	6-6/200	Okaloosa Walton (Fla.)	S. Mississippi
8.	Daryan Selvy	6-6/205	Carl Albert (Okla.)	Oklahoma
9.	Jason Wilson	6-7/220	Trinity Valley (Texas)	Louisiana St.
10.	Jackie Rogers	6-7/215	Barton County (Kansas)	Massachusetts

POWER FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College	Four-year school
1.	Aaron McGhee	6-8/235	Vincennes (Ind.)	Oklahoma
2.	Randy Holcomb	6-8/220	Los Angeles City	San Diego St.
3.	Johnnie Selvie	6-7/215	Southeastern (Iowa)	Connecticut
4.	Jamaal Davis	6-8/225	Barton County (Kan.)	Cincinnati
5.	Patrick Okafor	6-8/230	Lee (Texas)	Houston
6.	Philip Ricci	6-8/225	S. J. Delta (Calif.)	Oregon St.
7.	Cam Stephens	6-7/220	Vincennes (Ind.)	Charlotte
8.	Matt Siebrandt	6-7/230	Southern (Idaho)	Kansas St.
9.	Dion Broom	6-6/235	Yavapai (Ariz.)	New Mexico
10.	Tyrar Pearson	6-7/210	Kankakee (Ill.)	Iowa St.

CENTERS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College	Four-year school
1.	Reggie Evans	6-8/245	Coffeyville (Kan.)	Iowa
2.	Ernest Brown	7-0/235	Indian Hills (Iowa)	pro
3.	Jerry Holman	6-10/220	Minneapolis (Minn.)	Minnesota
4.	Ronell Mingo	6-9/235	Compton (Calif.)	Wyoming
5.	Will Campbell	6-7/230	Chipola (Fla.)	Ala.-Birmingham
6.	Melih Yavsaner	6-11/230	Hill (Texas)	SW Texas
7.	Joe Szendrei	6-10/245	Northeastern (Colo.)	Oklahoma
8.	Mike Bernard	6-9/225	Coffeyville (Kan.)	South Florida
9.	Ronnie Griffin	6-9/225	Tallahassee (Fla.)	Oklahoma

Rating the JC transfers

Best inside scorer: Aaron McGhee, Oklahoma.

Best outside scorer: Zelimir Stevanovic, Pittsburgh.

Best ballhandler under 6-5: Robert Yanders, SW Missouri State.

Best ballhandler over 6-5: Cory Hightower, drafted by San Antonio at No. 54.

Best rebounder: Reggie Evans, Iowa.

Biggest surprise last season: Monte Cummings, Florida State.

Biggest disappointment last season: Ernest Brown, drafted by Miami at No. 52.

Best defender under 6-5: Maurice Baker, Oklahoma State.

Best defender over 6-5: Johnnie Selvie, Connecticut.

Best 3-point shooter: Joe Gordon, Miami (Fla.).

Best leaper: Norm Cain, 6-7, from Brevard (Fla.) to UT-Chattanooga.

Biggest sleeper: Eric Schmieder, 6-2/180, from Cecil (Md.) to Drexel.

Could have biggest impact: Randy Holcomb, San Diego State.

Best NBA prospect (in two years): Antwan Jones, Cincinnati

—Rick Ball

Top junior college sophomores

By Rick Ball, Ballplayers JC Report

POINT GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College
1.	Eric Bush	5-10/175	Barton County (Kan.)
2.	Rashad Hooks	6-3/185	West Valley (Calif.)
3.	Kenyatta Dix	6-0/170	Frank Phillips (Texas)
4.	Eric Tutt	6-0/150	Calhoun (Ala.)
5.	J.R. Blount	5-11/165	Connors St. (Okla.)
6.	Antoino Burks	6-2/185	Grayson County (Texas)
7.	Marcus Banks	6-0/170	Dixie College (Utah)
8.	Taron Barker	6-0/195	Odessa (Texas)
9.	Clarence Baker	5-9/165	Kankakee (Ill.)
10.	Eric Branham	5-10/160	Hagerstown (Md.)

SHOOTING GUARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College
1.	Marcus Hatten	6-2/180	Tallahassee (Fla.)
2.	Antonio Falu	6-5/185	San Jacinto (Texas)
3.	Darmetris Kilgore	6-5/210	Tyler (Texas)
4.	Blandon Ferguson	6-3/215	Southern (Idaho)
5.	Darren Tarver	6-2/210	Wabash Valley (Ill.)
6.	Jibrah Ike	6-2/170	Southeastern (Iowa)
7.	Gilson DeJesus	6-4/200	Trinidad St. (Colo.)
8.	Larry House	6-4/210	Colby (Kan.)
9.	Ronnie Ross	6-1/185	John Wood (Ill.)
10.	Rod Newton	6-4/205	Holmes (Miss.)

SMALL FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College
1.	Kei Madison	6-9/220	Western (Iowa)
2.	Kendrick Brown	6-7/225	Okaloosa Walton (Fla.)
3.	Clifton Terry	6-9/225	Kennedy-King (Ill.)
4.	Carlton Baker	6-6/195	Barton County (Kan.)
5.	Janerio Spurlock	6-6/200	Chipola (Fla.)
6.	Greg Brittan	6-5/215	Central (Fla.)
7.	Antone Roberson	6-5/235	San Jose (Calif.)
8.	Nick Benson	6-5/210	Moberly (Mo.)
9.	Joey Walker	6-5/205	Southeastern (Iowa)
10.	Dean Smith	6-9/205	Indian River (Fla.)

POWER FORWARDS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College
1.	Chris Massey	6-8/250	Oxnard (Calif.)
2.	Hiram Fuller	6-9/235	Wabash Valley (Ill.)
3.	Pawel Storzynski	6-8/210	Dodge City (Kan.)
4.	Ryan Randle	6-9/240	Allegany (Md.)
5.	Sam Hoskins	6-8/240	Schoolcraft (Mich.)
6.	Tommy King	6-7/225	Western (Neb.)
7.	Purvis Pasco	6-9/215	Pensacola (Fla.)
8.	Desmon Pinegar	6-7/240	Ventura (Calif.)
9.	Bakary Konate	6-9/205	Cincinnati St. (Ohio)
10.	Derek Huff	6-8/245	Marshalltown (Iowa)

CENTERS

Rk.	Name	Ht/Wt.	Junior College
1.	Ermal Kugo	6-10/270	Seminole (Okla.)
2.	Moustapha Diagne	7-0/230	Trinity Valley (Texas)
3.	Chris Jackson	6-9/240	Garden City (Kan.)
4.	Uche Okafor	7-0/240	Southern (Idaho)
5.	Gene Shipley	6-10/245	San Jose (Calif.)
6.	Kenny Brown	6-10/245	Western (Iowa)
7.	Trevor Harvey	6-11/225	Marshalltown (Iowa)
8.	Mike Mackell	6-9/235	Porterville (Calif.)
9.	Nerijus Lissaskas	6-10/225	Gulf Coast (Miss.)
10.	Shawnson Johnson	6-9/245	Lee (Texas)

For more information on Ballplayers JC Report, write P.O. Box 17172, Pensacola, Fla. 32522.

2000-2001 In-season Events

Date	Tournament	Teams (*Denotes host school)
November 9-10	Coaches vs. Cancer IKON Classic (New York City)	Kentucky vs. St. John's, Kansas vs. UCLA.
November 10-11	NABC Classic (Chapel Hill, N.C.)	North Carolina* vs. Winthrop, Arizona State vs. Tulsa.
November 13-24	Chase Preseason NIT	Mississippi State at California, Delaware at Temple, Duke at Princeton, Fairfield at Villanova, George Mason at New Mexico, Pepperdine at Indiana, Marquette at South Alabama, Navy at Texas. (First- and second-round games to be played at campus sites; semifinals and finals to be played in New York City.)
November 16-17	BCA Classic (Winston-Salem, N.C.)	Wake Forest* vs. Mount St. Mary's, Air Force vs. Houston.
November 16-19	Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)	Alaska* vs. Colorado, Auburn vs. Austin Peay, Davidson vs. Santa Clara, South Florida vs. Utah State.
November 17-18	CoSIDA Classic (Raleigh, NC)	North Carolina State* vs. Penn, Nebraska vs. UNC Charlotte.
November 17-18	Florida International Tip-Off Classic (Miami)	Florida International* vs. Belmont, Hofstra vs. Northern Illinois.
November 17-18	Hispanic Scholarship Tournament (Fresno, Calif.)	Fresno State* vs. St. Mary's, New Mexico State vs. St. Bonaventure.
November 17-18	John Thompson Classic (Fayetteville, Ark.)	Arkansas* vs. Tennessee State, Louisiana Tech vs. Southern Mississippi.
November 17-18	Mohegan Sun Classic (New Britain, Conn.)	Central Connecticut State, Colgate, Columbia, Maine.
November 17-18	Pepsi-Marist Classic (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)	Marist*, Dartmouth, East Carolina, Northeastern.
November 17-18	Sooner Invitational (Norman, Okla.)	Oklahoma* vs. Alcorn State, La Salle vs. UNC Wilmington.
November 18-20	Battle of Baltimore Classic (Baltimore)	Maryland-Baltimore County* vs. Towson State, Loyola (Md.) vs. Morgan State.
November 20-22	Maui Invitational (Lahaina, Hawaii)	Chaminade* vs. Arizona, Connecticut vs. Dayton, Illinois vs. UNLV, Louisville vs. Maryland.
November 22-25	Great Alaska Shootout (Anchorage)	Alaska* vs. Valparaiso, Florida State vs. Ohio State, DePaul vs. Syracuse, Missouri vs. Rhode Island.
November 23-25	Puerto Rico Shootout (San Juan, Puerto Rico)	American-Puerto Rico* vs. Utah, Old Dominion vs. Stanford, Georgia vs. Indiana State, Miami of Ohio vs. Memphis.
November 24-25	Florida International Shootout (Miami)	Florida International*, Canisius, Florida Atlantic, Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
November 24-25	Red Auerbach Classic (Washington, D.C.)	George Washington* vs. Howard, Boston University vs. Quinnipiac.
November 24-25	Spartan Coca-Cola Classic (East Lansing, Mich.)	Michigan State* vs. Cornell, Bradley vs. Eastern Washington.
November 24-26	Big Island Invitational (Hilo, Hawaii)	Hawaii-Hilo* vs. Tulane, Oregon State vs. Appalachian State, Long Beach State vs. San Francisco, Montana State vs. Oklahoma.
November 24-26	Hawaii Pacific Thanksgiving Classic (Honolulu)	Hawaii Pacific*, Central Florida, College of Charleston, Duquesne, Georgetown, Minnesota, Siena, Texas Christian.
November 24-26	Mountain Energy Tournament (Kansas City, Mo.)	Missouri-Kansas City*, Auburn, Cleveland State, Creighton, Providence, Robert Morris, Southeast Missouri, Toledo.
November 24-26	United Airlines Tip-Off Tournament (Honolulu)	Hawaii* vs. Murray State, Elon (N.C.) vs. San Diego.
Nov. 30-Dec. 1	Phoenix Classic (Hartford, Conn.)	Hartford* vs. Central Connecticut State, Colorado State vs. Yale.
December 1-2	Coca Cola Classic (Milwaukee)	Marquette*, Cal State Northridge, Centenary, Northern Illinois.
December 1-2	Cyclone Challenge (Ames, Iowa)	Iowa State*, Southern Mississippi, Southern, Western Illinois.
December 1-2	First Merchants Classic (Muncie, Ind.)	Ball State* vs. TBA, Princeton vs. Weber State.
December 1-2	Gazette Hawkeye Challenge (Iowa City)	Iowa* vs. UT-Chattanooga, Santa Clara vs. Tulsa.
December 1-2	Pizza Hut Classic (Springfield, Mo.)	Southwest Missouri State* vs. North Texas, Sam Houston State vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.
December 2-3	BB&T Classic (Washington, D.C.)	George Washington* vs. St. John's, Maryland vs. Michigan.
December 8-9	Ameritech Indiana Classic (Bloomington, Ind.)	Indiana* vs. Western Michigan, Ball State vs. Texas Tech.
December 8-9	Boilermaker Invitational (West Lafayette, Ind.)	Purdue* vs. Duquesne, Alabama A&M vs. Northern Arizona.
December 8-9	Husker Classic (Lincoln, Neb.)	Nebraska* vs. Missouri-Kansas City, Alaska vs. Pacific.
December 18-19	Stanford Invitational (Palo Alto, Calif.)	Stanford* vs. Sacred Heart (Conn.), Georgia Tech vs. Idaho State.
December 19-20	Trend Homes Classic (Fresno, Calif.)	Fresno State*, Louisiana-Lafayette, Samford, Toledo.
December 20-21	State Farm Classic (Charleston, S.C.)	College of Charleston* vs. Jacksonville State, Charleston Southern vs. Delaware.
December 20-22	Puerto Rico Shootout (San Juan, Puerto Rico)	American-Puerto Rico* vs. Washington, Alabama vs. Northern Iowa, Clemson vs. Florida Atlantic, Cincinnati vs. Youngstown State.
December 20-22	San Juan Shootout (San Juan, Puerto Rico)	Puerto Rico-Mayaguez* vs. Southern Methodist, Iona vs. Nebraska, Evansville vs. Virginia Commonwealth, Kent vs. Northwestern.
December 21-23	Pearl Harbor Classic (Laie, Hawaii)	BYU-Hawaii* vs. Southern California, Boise State vs. BYU, Iowa State vs. Troy State, Mississippi vs. Southern Illinois.
December 27-28	ECAC Holiday Festival (New York City)	Rutgers vs. Hofstra, Penn State vs. Princeton.
December 27-28	Sun Carnival Classic (El Paso, Texas)	UTEP* vs. Jackson State, Houston vs. Southeast Missouri State.
December 27-30	Rainbow Classic (Honolulu, Hawaii)	Hawaii* vs. Manhattan, Detroit vs. Iowa, George Washington vs. Tennessee, Saint Louis vs. Texas A&M.
December 28-29	Golden Bear Classic (Berkeley, Calif.)	California*, Lafayette, La Salle, Yale.

December 28-29	Hoosier Classic (Indianapolis)	Indiana* vs. Northeastern, Colorado State vs. Valparaiso.
December 28-29	Islander Classic (Corpus Christi, Texas)	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi* vs. Birmingham Southern, Cleveland State vs. Winthrop.
December 28-30	Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic (Tucson, Ariz.)	Arizona* vs. Butler, Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Mississippi State.
December 29-30	All-College Tournament (Oklahoma City)	Oklahoma* vs. Oral Roberts, Southern Methodist vs. Texas-Pan American.
December 29-30	AZCentral.com Tournament (Tempe, Ariz.)	Arizona State*, UNC Charlotte, Ohio University, Pepperdine.
December 29-30	Cable Car Classic (Santa Clara, Calif.)	Santa Clara* vs. George Mason, Fordham vs. Stanford.
December 29-30	Capital City Classic (Tallahassee, Fla.)	Florida A&M* vs. Morehead State, The Citadel vs. Colgate.
December 29-30	Comcast Lobo Invitational (Albuquerque, N.M.)	New Mexico* vs. William & Mary, Drexel vs. Davidson.
December 29-30	Dr Pepper Classic (Chattanooga, Tenn.)	UT-Chattanooga*, Austin Peay, Belmont, Jacksonville State.
December 29-30	Food Lion MVP Classic (Charlotte, N.C.)	North Carolina* vs. Massachusetts, College of Charleston vs. Richmond.
December 29-30	Gossner Foods Classic (Logan, Utah)	Utah State* vs. Albany State, Air Force vs. Cornell.
December 29-30	Holiday Stores Classic (Bozeman, Mont.)	Montana State* vs. St. Francis (N.Y.), Portland vs. Radford.
December 29-30	Oneida Bingo and Casino Classic (Green Bay, Wis.)	Wisconsin-Green Bay*, Northern Iowa, Samford, Youngstown State.

2000 NCAA Tournament

(regional seeds in parentheses)

CHAMPIONSHIP

Michigan State 89, Florida 76

NATIONAL SEMIFINALS

Michigan State 53, Wisconsin 41
Florida 71, North Carolina 59

WEST REGION

Final

(8) Wisconsin 64, (6) Purdue 60

Semifinal

(8) Wisconsin 61, (4) LSU 48
(6) Purdue 75, (10) Gonzaga 66

Second round

(1) Arizona 59, (8) Wisconsin 66
(5) Texas 67, (4) LSU 72
(6) Purdue 66, (3) Oklahoma 62
(10) Gonzaga 82, (2) St. John's 76

First round

(1) Arizona 71, (16) Jackson St. 47
(8) Wisconsin 66, (9) Fresno St. 56
(5) Texas 77, (12) Indiana St. 61
(4) LSU 64, (13) SE Missouri St. 61
(3) Oklahoma 74, (14) Winthrop 50
(6) Purdue 62, (11) Dayton 61
(7) Louisville 66, (10) Gonzaga 77
(2) St. John's 61, (15) N. Arizona 56

MIDWEST REGION

Final

(1) Michigan St. 75, (2) Iowa St. 64

Semifinal

(1) Michigan St. 75, (4) Syracuse 58
(2) Iowa St. 80, (6) UCLA 56

Second round

(1) Michigan St. 73, (8) Utah 61
(5) Kentucky 50, (4) Syracuse 52
(6) UCLA 105, (3) Maryland 70
(7) Auburn 60, (2) Iowa St. 79

First round

(1) Michigan St. 65, (16) Valparaiso 55
(8) Utah 48, (9) Saint Louis 45
(5) Kentucky 85, (12) St. Bonaventure 80
(4) Syracuse 79, (13) Samford 65
(6) UCLA 65, (11) Ball St. 57
(3) Maryland 74, (14) Iona 59
(7) Auburn 72, (10) Creighton 69
(2) Iowa St. 88, (15) Central Conn. St. 78

EAST REGION

Final

(5) Florida 77, (3) Oklahoma St. 65

Semifinal

(1) Duke 78, (5) Florida 87
(3) Oklahoma St. 68, (10) Seton Hall 66

Second round

(1) Duke 69, (8) Kansas 64
(5) Florida 93, (4) Illinois 76
(11) Pepperdine 67, (3) Oklahoma St. 75
(10) Seton Hall 67, (2) Temple 65

First round

(1) Duke 82, (16) Lamar 55
(8) Kansas 81, (9) DePaul 77
(5) Florida 69, (12) Butler 68
(4) Illinois 68, (13) Pennsylvania 58
(6) Indiana 57, (11) Pepperdine 77
(3) Oklahoma St. 86, (14) Hofstra 66
(7) Oregon 71, (10) Seton Hall 72
(2) Temple 73, (15) Lafayette 47

SOUTH REGION

Final

(8) North Carolina 59, (7) Tulsa 55

Semifinal

(8) North Carolina 74, (4) Tennessee 69
(6) Miami (Fla.) 71, (7) Tulsa 80

Second round

(1) Stanford 53, (8) North Carolina 60
(5) Connecticut 51, (4) Tennessee 65
(6) Miami (Fla.) 75, (3) Ohio State 62
(7) Tulsa 69, (2) Cincinnati 61

First round

(1) Stanford 84, (16) S. Carolina St. 65
(8) North Carolina 84, (9) Missouri 70
(5) Connecticut 75, (12) Utah St. 67
(4) Tennessee 63, (13) La-Lafayette 58
(6) Miami (Fla.) 75, (11) Arkansas 71
(3) Ohio St. 87, Appalachian St. 61
(7) Tulsa 89, (10) UNLV 62
(2) Cincinnati 64, (15) UNC Wilmington 47

2001 NCAA Tournament

Selection Date: March 11

2001 First and second rounds

March 15 and 17
(Thursday/Saturday)

East

Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Uniondale, N.Y.

Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.

West

Cox Arena at Aztec Bowl, San Diego, Calif.

Boise State Pavilion, Boise, Idaho

March 16 and 18
(Friday/Sunday)

Midwest

Univ. of Dayton Arena, Dayton, Ohio

Kemper Arena, Kansas City, Mo.

South

The Pyramid, Memphis
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans

2001 Regional sessions

March 22 and 24
(Thursday/Saturday)

East

CoreStates Center, Philadelphia

West

Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim, Anaheim, Calif.

March 23 and 25
(Friday/Sunday)

Midwest

Alamodome, San Antonio

South

Georgia Dome, Atlanta

2001 Final Four

March 31 and April 2
(Saturday/Monday)

Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis

Future NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Final Four Sites and Dates

2002

Georgia Dome, Atlanta
March 30 & April 1

2003

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
April 5 & 7

2004

Alamodome, San Antonio
April 3 & 5

2005

Trans World Dome, St. Louis
April 2 & 4

2006

RCA Dome, Indianapolis
April 1 & 3

2007

Georgia Dome, Atlanta
March 31 & April 2

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Coaching Changes/Division I

School	Old Coach (notes)	New Coach (background)
Air Force	Reggie Minton (dismissed)	Joe Scott (Princeton asst.)
Albany (N.Y.)	Scott Hicks (to Loyola, Md.)	Scott Beeten (California asst.)
American	Art Perry (dismissed)	Jeff Jones (Rhode Island asst., Virginia)
Appalachian St.	Buzz Peterson (to Tulsa)	Houston Fancher (Appalachian St. asst.)
Ark.-Little Rock	Sidney Moncrief (to Dallas Mavericks asst.)	Porter Moser (Ark.-Little Rock asst.)
Ball St.	Ray McCallum (to Houston)	Tim Buckley (Marquette asst.; Ball State asst.)
Butler	Barry Collier (to Nebraska)	Thad Matta (Butler asst.)
Cal St. Fullerton	Bob Hawking (resigned)	Donny Daniels (Utah asst.)
Cal St. Sacramento	Tom Abatemarco (resigned)	Jerome Jenkins (interim)
Charleston Southern	Tom Conrad (contract not renewed)	Jim Platt (Fla. St. asst.; Ark.-Little Rock)
Colorado St.	Ritchie McKay (to Oregon St.)	Dale Layer (Colorado St. asst.)
Cornell	Scott Thompson (resigned)	Open
Delaware	Mike Brey (to Notre Dame)	David Henderson (Duke asst.)
Delaware St.	Tony Sheals (resigned)	Gregory D. Jackson (North Carolina Central)
Eastern Kentucky	Scott Perry (resigned)	Travis Ford (Campbellsville)
Eastern Michigan	Milton Barnes (dismissed)	Jim Boone (Robert Morris)
Eastern Washington	Steve Aggers (to Loyola Marymount)	Ray Giacoletti (North Dakota St.; Washington asst.)
Florida International	Marcos "Shakey" Rodriguez (resigned)	Donnie Marsh (Virginia Tech asst.)
Georgia Tech	Bobby Cremins (retired)	Paul Hewitt (Siena)
Hartford	Paul Brazeau (resigned)	Larry Harrison (DePaul asst.; Cincinnati asst.)
Houston	Clyde Drexler (resigned)	Ray McCallum (Ball St.)
Howard	Kirk Saulny (dismissed 1-7)	Frankie Allen (Tennessee St.)
Illinois	Lon Kruger (to NBA Atlanta Hawks)	Bill Self (Tulsa)
Jacksonville St.	Mark Turgeon (to Wichita St.)	Mike LaPlante
Kansas State	Tom Asbury (resigned)	Jim Woolridge (Chicago Bulls asst.; Louisiana Tech)
Loyola (Md.)	Dino Gaudio (resigned, to Xavier asst.)	Scott Hicks (Albany, N.Y.)
Loyola Marymount	Charles Bradley (resigned)	Steve Aggers (Eastern Wash.)
Md.-Eastern Shore	Lonnie Williams (dismissed)	Thomas Trotter (New Mexico St. asst.; Illinois asst.)
Memphis	Johnny Jones (interim)	John Calipari (N.J. Nets; Massachusetts)
Miami (Fla.)	Leonard Hamilton (to Washington Wizards)	Perry Clark (Tulane)
UMKC	Bob Sundvold (dismissed)	Dean Demopoulos (Temple asst.)
Nebraska	Danny Nee (dismissed)	Barry Collier (Butler)
North Carolina	Bill Guthridge (retired)	Matt Doherty (Notre Dame)
Northwestern	Kevin O'Neill (to NBA New York Knicks asst.)	Bill Carmody (Princeton)
Notre Dame	Matt Doherty (to North Carolina)	Mike Brey (Delaware)
Oregon State	Eddie Payne (dismissed)	Ritchie McKay (Colorado State)
Princeton	Bill Carmody (to Northwestern)	TBA
Robert Morris	Jim Boone (to Eastern Mich.)	Danny Nee (Nebraska)
St. Peter's	Rodger Blind (contract not renewed)	Bob Leckie (HS)
Siena	Paul Hewitt (to Georgia Tech)	Louis Orr (Syracuse asst.)
Southwest Texas State	Mike Miller (resigned)	Dennis Nutt (Arkansas St. asst.)
Stephen F. Austin	Derek Allister (resigned)	Danny Kaspar (Incarnate Word)
Tennessee St.	Frankie Allen (resigned)	Nolan Richardson III (Arkansas asst.)
Tulane	Perry Clark (to Miami, Fla.)	Shawn Finney (Kentucky asst.)
Tulsa	Bill Self (to Illinois)	Buzz Peterson (Appalachian St.)
Western Carolina	Phil Hopkins (dismissed)	Steve Shurina (Vanderbilt asst.)
Western Michigan	Bob Donewald (dismissed)	Robert McCullum (Illinois asst.)
Wichita St.	Randy Smithson (resigned)	Mark Turgeon (Jacksonville St.)
William & Mary	Charlie Woollum (retired)	Rick Boyages (Ohio St. asst.; Boston College asst.)

—Compiled by Gary K. Johnson, NCAA

Conference Tournament Schedule

League	Dates	Site	League	Dates	Site
America East	March 2-4, March 10	Newark, Del.*	Midwestern Collegiate	March 3-6	Dayton, Ohio
Atlantic Coast	March 8-11	Atlanta	Missouri Valley	March 1-5	St. Louis
Atlantic 10	March 7-10	Philadelphia	Mountain West	March 8-11	Las Vegas
Big East	March 8-10	New York	Northeast	March 3-5	Trenton, N.J.
Big Sky	March 8-10	To be determined#	Ohio Valley	Feb. 27, March 2-3	Nashville^
Big South	March 1-3	Roanoke, Va.	Patriot	March 3-4, March 9	TBD
Big Ten	March 8-11	Chicago	Southeastern	March 8-11	Nashville
Big 12	March 8-11	Kansas City	Southern	March 1-4	Greenville, S.C.
Big West	March 8-10	Anaheim, Calif.	Southland	March 6, 9-10	TBD^
Colonial	March 3-5	Richmond, Va.	Southwestern Athletic	March 8-11	Biloxi, Miss.
Conference USA	March 7-10	Louisville	Sun Belt	March 2-6	Mobile, Ala.
Metro Atlantic	March 1-5	Buffalo	Trans America	Feb. 28-March 3	Atlanta
Mid-American	March 8-10	Cleveland	West Coast	March 3-5	San Diego
Mid-Continent	March 4-6	Fort Wayne, Ind.	Western Athletic	March 8-10	Tulsa, Okla.
Mid-Eastern Athletic	March 5-10	Richmond, Va.			

*Title game at higher seed. #At regular-season winner. ^First round at campus sites.

The Sporting News

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SURVEY



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Get goin'. I'll see you in the sports pages.

1. Going into the 2000-01 season, which Division I-A conference do you think is strongest?

- ☐ ACC ☐ Pac-10 ☐ Big Ten
☐ SEC ☐ Big East ☐ Big 12
☐ Conference USA ☐ WAC

2. Should college athletes be paid?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Which is more exciting to you?

- ☐ March Madness ☐ NBA playoffs

4. Do you think regular-season results are given enough importance in the overall scheme of college basketball?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Do you approve of the rule that allows a college player to declare for the NBA draft and return to school if he isn't drafted?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Which is more exciting to you, a 3-pointer or a dunk?

- ☐ 3-pointer ☐ dunk

7. Should the 3-point line be moved back?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Do you prefer professional or college basketball?

- ☐ pro ☐ college

9. If you attended college, do you actively support your school's basketball team by attending games and/or donating money to the athletic department?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Would you like to see more coverage of Division II, Div. III or NAIA?

- ☐ D-II ☐ D-III ☐ NAIA ☐ No

11. How often do you refer to THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook throughout the season?

- ☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ constantly

12. Is this your first purchase of THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

12a. If not, how many times have you bought it?

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2-3 ☐ 4-5 ☐ 5-10
☐ more than 10

13. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?

More pages	Fewer pages	Perfect as is	
_____	_____	_____	Feature articles on players, issues, etc.
_____	_____	_____	Conference previews
_____	_____	_____	Team charts
_____	_____	_____	Scouting the nation, Top 25 capsules
_____	_____	_____	Predictions (conference races, All-American teams, etc.)
_____	_____	_____	Women's basketball

14. Anything else we should change to improve THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook?

15. How many other people read your copy of THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook?

- ☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4-5
☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15

16. What influenced you to buy THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook? (Check all that apply.)
☐ overall editorial content
☐ graphic presentation ☐ cover ☐ price
☐ name recognition

17. Ideally, when would you like to buy the College Basketball yearbook?
☐ Oct. 1 ☐ Oct. 15 ☐ Nov. 1 ☐ Nov. 15

18. Which other yearbooks from THE SPORTING NEWS do you read or look through? (Check all that apply.)
☐ College Football ☐ Fantasy Football
☐ Pro Football ☐ Racing
☐ Baseball ☐ Fantasy Baseball
☐ Pro Basketball ☐ Hockey

19. If it were possible to buy all nine of THE SPORTING NEWS yearbooks on a subscription basis, would you do so?
☐ Yes ☐ No

20. Do you read yearbooks from other companies?
☐ Yes ☐ No

20a. If yes, which ones?
☐ Athlon
☐ Dick Vitale's ☐ Lindy's
☐ Preview ☐ Street & Smith's
☐ other _____

21. Do you buy THE SPORTING NEWS weekly magazine?
☐ Yes ☐ No

21a. If yes, are you a subscriber?
☐ Yes ☐ No

21b. How would you rate the college basketball coverage?
☐ excellent ☐ very good ☐ good
☐ average ☐ below average

22. Have you purchased anything through the mail?
☐ Yes ☐ No

23. Do you play sports?
☐ Yes ☐ No

23a. If yes, what sports do you play?
☐ football ☐ golf
☐ baseball ☐ tennis
☐ softball ☐ running
☐ basketball ☐ cycling
☐ hockey ☐ hiking/walking
☐ soccer ☐ in-line skating
☐ other _____

24. Do you own a personal computer?
☐ Yes ☐ No

25. Do you subscribe to an online service?
☐ Yes ☐ No

25a. Have you ever seen or used the award-winning TSN website www.sportingnews.com?
☐ Yes ☐ No

26. Do you play in a Rotisserie or other fantasy league?
☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ baseball ☐ football
☐ basketball ☐ hockey ☐ golf

27. Do you collect trading cards?
☐ Yes ☐ No

27a. If yes, which sports?
☐ baseball ☐ football
☐ basketball ☐ hockey
☐ other _____

27b. Where do you purchase them?
☐ memorabilia store
☐ convenience store
☐ supermarket
☐ mass merchandiser (K-Mart, Bradlees, etc.)
☐ other _____

28. Do you wear merchandise featuring your teams' logos?
☐ Yes ☐ No

29. How much do you spend a year on sporting goods (clothes and equipment)?
☐ less than \$100
☐ \$100 to \$250
☐ more than \$250

30. Will you be buying a new car or truck in the next two years?
☐ Yes ☐ No

31. Do you consider brand names in your purchasing decisions?
☐ Yes ☐ No

32. Have you watched any sporting event on pay-per-view?
☐ Yes ☐ No

32a. Do you have a satellite dish?
☐ Yes ☐ No

32b. If yes, do you purchase any of the various sports packages?
☐ Yes ☐ No

33. How many college basketball games do you attend in a season?
☐ 0 ☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-10 ☐ 11-plus

34. How far do you live from the home court of the nearest Division I college basketball team?
☐ 0-25 miles ☐ 26-50 ☐ more than 50

35. Have you traveled to attend a college game outside your local market?
☐ Yes ☐ No

36. Please check the category that includes your age.
☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-29
☐ 30-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64 ☐ Over 64

37. Are you...
☐ male? ☐ female?

38. Are you...
☐ married? ☐ single?

39. Did you attend /graduate from college?
☐ Yes ☐ No

40. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 1999? (Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)
☐ Less than \$20,000
☐ \$20,000-\$29,999
☐ \$30,000-\$39,999
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999
☐ \$50,000-\$74,999
☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
☐ \$100,000-\$199,999
☐ More than \$200,000

This portion is for our records and for your registration for the drawing.
 It will be kept CONFIDENTIAL and separate from your sports poll answers.
 Please fill in the following information:

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ROW

SEAT

ADMIT ONE

FOR A SEASON OF THRILLS

DATE

**FROM THE
SWEAT**

OF THE PRESEASON
TO THE OPENING



TIP-OFF



FROM THE FIRST
PRACTICE TO THE
MOMENT
WHEN THE
SOUND OF THE

BUZZER

SIGNALS THE REIGN OF A NATIONAL

CHAMPION

HOW FAR WILL THIS TICKET TAKE YOU?



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